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FROM

Prof. A. Norton

DAILY

DEVOTIONS

FOR THE CLOSET.

BY

THE LATE REV. SAMUEL MERIVALE.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

WITH A

SUPPLEMENT,

CONSISTING OF

PRAYERS FOR A SECOND WEEK,

AND OF

COLLECTS AND OCCASIONAL PRAYERS,

Adapted to the various circumstances and relations of Life.

Bristol:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM BROWNE, CLARE-STREET;

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In every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God: and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Phil.* iv. 6, 7.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews* iv. 24.

God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. *John* iv. 24.

If ye then, being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give *his* holy spirit to those who ask him. *Luke* xi. 13: Compare *Matthew* vii. 11; and *Psalms* li. 10, 11.

O Thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. *Psalms* lxv. 2.

PREFACE

TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

MR. MERIVALE'S Prayers are characterized by their simplicity, comprehensiveness, and solemn seriousness. An elevated strain of devotion runs through them, but it is calm and judicious. They keep closely in view the apostolic model, "I will pray with the spirit, I will pray with the understanding also;" and they are framed upon the direction of the Christian's Lord; "After this manner pray ye; Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done."

The Daily Devotions have been reprinted, probably more than once, in Scotland: the present Editor follows the third edition, published by the respected Son of the Author; having heretofore received his authority to employ it as he might see fit. As that edition is now exhausted, he avails himself of the permission granted him, to make a few slight verbal alterations, and to connect with MR. MERIVALE'S, Prayers and Collects from other repositories of rational piety; trusting that the whole together, will, under the divine blessing, contribute still further to raise and cherish devout affection, and to promote the interests of godliness and virtue.

In the preparation of the SUPPLEMENT, materials have been derived from the writings of JEREMY TAYLOR, FRANCIS QUARLES, BENJAMIN CARPENTER, and DR. TOULMIN, the COMMON PRAYER BOOK, and various other sources; and the Editor has employed them, (as he would desire others to employ whatever he has himself written,) in that way which appears best calculated to answer the purpose he has in view, to cultivate the spirit of prayer, and a deep sense of God, among those for whose edification this selection is especially intended.

The Collects are designed to embrace a great variety of christian experience and spiritual need. If to the fastidious taste any expressions seem objectionable, those who feel the objection can alter them; and, at any rate, the influence they may have on the heart, in aiding and guiding its aspirations, will amply compesate for this defect. But it may be proper to observe, that expressions which in some states of mind appear forced or exaggerated, may, in other circumstances, be the natural dictates of the heart: and it has been the aim, in this edition, to provide for a great variety in the spiritual wants of the erring and penitent, the weak, and the sorrowful, as well as of the more confirmed and experienced servants of Christ, whose path is habitually bright and onwards. By these, indeed, such aids will be but little needed

and none, it is hoped, will be led by them to neglect the great Treasury of pious experience. Indeed they will be most useful, when preceded by the serious perusal and self-application of some or other of those numerous portions of the Scriptures, which lead the christian to discern the "plague of his own heart," and to seek from Him "who giveth to all men liberally," that "wisdom which is profitable to direct," and that strength, without which human virtue and resolution cannot stand firm; and which tend to raise the soul from the world, and prepare for communion with Him "who seeth in secret."

It has not been deemed necessary, or even expedient, to observe any particular order in the Collects and Occasional Prayers. The Index at the end will sufficiently direct the worshipper in the selection of such as suit his immediate wants; but an occasional perusal of all will be a still more effectual guide in the choice, at seasons when the bitterness of the heart prompts to the direct employment of supplications that may not ordinarily express its necessities and desires.

L. C.

Bristol, March 17, 1828.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACCORDING TO

The Received Text of St. Matthew's Gospel, with slight alterations from St. Luke's.

OUR FATHER who art in heaven! Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we also forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.—For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

FOR THE CLOSET.

A PRAYER

FOR SUNDAY MORNING.

O GREAT and blessed God! the Maker and Lord of heaven and earth! Thou art possessed of all power, wisdom, and goodness. All riches, majesty, and dominion are thine; and thou art worthy to be revered and honoured, loved and obeyed, by all on earth, and all in heaven. I adore thee as the fountain of all being, of all happiness, and all perfection; and particularly as the God of my life, the author of all my past and present mercies, and the foundation of all my future hopes.

My times, O Lord, are in thy hand. On thee do I constantly depend for the continuance of that life, which I at first received from thee, and which I am under the strongest obligations to devote entirely to thy service. But more especially am I bound to honour thee with that portion of my time, which thou hast in a peculiar manner conse-

crated to thyself. I thank thee for the institution of a sabbath as a day of sacred rest, set apart from worldly cares and labours, to thy more immediate service. May it ever be regarded by me with delight, holy to the Lord, and honourable.—Many seasons of mercy, and means of grace, have I foolishly wasted, or sinfully abused. Yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast now brought me to see another of the days of the Son of Man. Oh let not this sabbath be added to the number of my lost sabbaths: but help me to spend it in thy fear; to employ it in holy acts, and devout exercises, and to improve it to my spiritual edification, and to my increase in divine knowledge, grace, and comfort.

This is the day in which the great Redeemer of the world broke the bonds of death, and rose triumphant from the grave. Oh that, being quickened together with him, and raised from the death of sin to a life of righteousness, I may be engaged to seek those things which are above, where he now sits at thy right hand. Help me to chase away carnal and worldly affections from my heart; and to raise my thoughts and views to spiritual and heavenly objects. And may all my sentiments, words, and actions, from

the beginning to the end of this thy day, be holy and unreprovable in thy sight!

Give me, O Lord, such worthy apprehensions of thine adorable nature and attributes; such exalted views of thy creating power and wisdom, of thy providential care, and of thy redeeming love and grace; as shall excite in my soul all suitable affections towards thee,—the deepest veneration, the purest love, the liveliest hope, and the sublimest joy. Form my soul to a resemblance of thyself; and grant that, by the influence of thy good spirit, I may be renewed in the spirit of my mind; and may be enabled to put on that new man which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. May the great work of religion, in all its various exercises, be considered by me as the most honourable, the most important, and the most delightful employment in which I can be engaged: and in this business let me be never slothful or negligent, but always prepared to serve thee with cheerfulness, fidelity, and zeal.

I would this morning, with all possible seriousness and solemnity, renew the dedication of myself to thee, my God. Thine I am, by the strongest ties of duty, interest,

and gratitude; and thine I would for ever be. Take, I beseech thee, the full possession of my heart, which thou hast formed for thyself: and help me to make an unfeigned surrender of all that I am, and all that I have, to thee, the great proprietor of all. With pure fervour would I cleave unto thee. Oh preserve me to thyself; and let nothing be able to separate me from thy love.

Help me, O Lord, to live under a constant sense of thy presence; and to maintain an habitual communion with thee, my Heavenly Father, as the disciple of Christ Jesus. May I find it good for me to draw near unto thee, from time to time, in the exercises of private and public devotion; and be in the happy number of those whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee with acceptance; of those whom thou satisfiest with the goodness of thy house, and cheerest with the hope of worshiping and serving thee more perfectly in thy heavenly temple.

Grant, O thou most beneficent of beings, that, in a humble imitation of thy diffusive goodness, I may cherish in my heart a sincere good will and fervent charity to all my fellow-creatures, as thy offspring. Let me not think it enough, merely to wish them

well, and to abstain from injuring them; but make me ever ready to do them all the good in my power. And especially let me never be wanting in the discharge of those duties which belong to my particular station and relations.

Give me also wisdom clearly to discern, and effectually to pursue, my own truest welfare and happiness. Teach me to prefer the interest of my soul to that of my body; to keep all my appetites and passions under a due regulation; to cultivate the graces of humility and meekness, moderation and contentment; to possess my soul in patience, amidst all the trials and troubles of this present state; and to be, above all things, solicitous to ensure my future and eternal bliss.

For these most important purposes, bless, O merciful God, all the means of grace that I enjoy; and particularly the opportunities I may this day have, of assembling with my fellow christians to attend the ordinances of public worship and religious instruction. Assist thy ministering servants in their addresses to thee, and in their endeavours to improve and edify their hearers; and let their services in thy sanctuary be attended with abundant success.

And now, through him who was dead, but is alive, and lives for evermore, exalted to be our Prince and Saviour, be ascribed unto thee glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

O MOST blessed and glorious God! Thy name is excellent in all the earth; and thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thou art great, and greatly to be praised; thou art good, and greatly to be loved; and thou art worthy to receive the united adoration and homage of all thy rational creatures. Thou needest not our services; nor canst thou receive the least advantage from our praises: but never can we be more honourably or advantageously employed, than in celebrating thy perfections, admiring thy works, gratefully recollecting the past instances of thy goodness, and imploring the continuance of thy kind and favourable regards.

Blessed be thy name for the renewed opportunities I have this day had, of waiting upon thee in thy house; of joining in the public services of thy sanctuary; of hearing

thy word explained and enforced; and of being from thence instructed and encouraged in those ways of righteousness which lead to life eternal. Help me, good Lord, to make a proper improvement of these religious advantages and means of grace which thou affordest me. Enable me to live in a manner suitable to the profession I make, to the privileges I enjoy, and to the obligations and engagements I am under to thee. May thy laws be more deeply engraven on my heart, May the truths I have this day heard be so faithfully kept in mind, as to be of lasting use, for the better information of my judgement, and the regulation of my temper and conduct!

Pardon those imperfections, most merciful Father, which have attended my religious duties this day, in thy house or in my own, Forgive the deadness and dulness of my affections, the wandering of my thoughts, and the distractions of my mind. I am grieved and ashamed to think how little my heart has been engaged in the work of prayer and praise.

May I have the wisdom to spend my future sabbaths better; and learn to be at all times more serious and considerate, more

spiritual and heavenly-minded, than I have hitherto been. Let my thoughts be more frequently and delightfully employed in meditating on the glorious perfections of thy nature, as displayed in thy works, and in thy word. Purify my affections; that I may love thee above all, and delight in thee, and in thy laws; and renounce and detest whatever is evil in itself and displeasing to thee. And grant that I may every day feel more and more of that peace and satisfaction, which is the genuine effect of a growing acquaintance with thee, and of a close adherence to thee, in all the ways of holy obedience.

Whilst I am here in this world, help me by faith to live above. Suffer me not to mind and pursue earthly things, as if I had chosen the world for my portion, and had no better inheritance in view: but knowing that I have here no continuing city, may I seek one to come? even that which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Considering myself as only a stranger and pilgrim on earth, let me live like a citizen of heaven, and have my conversation there. Enable me, O Lord, by thy mighty power, to overcome all the difficulties and oppositions,

the trials and temptations, which I may meet with in my journey heavenward. And by making daily advances and improvements in holiness and goodness, may I be gradually grow more and more fit for a share in that glorious inheritance, which is among thy saints in light.

Blessed be thy name, O God of grace, that thou didst take compassion on a world that lay in wickedness, and was exposed to misery and ruin; and didst contrive the grand scheme of our redemption and salvation;—that when the fulness of time was come thou didst send forth thy beloved Son, to execute the purposes of thy goodness; to teach us the most important and salutary doctrines; to instruct us in the knowledge of thy nature and will, of the duties which thou requirest of us, and of the blessings which thou hast intended for us; to set before us the most amiable and animating example of universal goodness, in his own character and conduct; and at length to suffer and to die, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast, with thy right-hand, exalted this our suffering and dying Redeemer, to be the Captain of our salvation; and that, having been made

perfect through sufferings, he is become the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.

Blessed be thy name that the tidings of this salvation have reached my ears; that the kind offers of grace, peace, and eternal life, are held forth to me in the gospel of thy Son. May I cheerfully comply with thy merciful invitations; thankfully accept thine offered blessings on thy own terms; and be taught most highly to value, and wisely to improve, all those inestimable privileges and advantages of a spiritual nature with which thou hast favoured me.

For the many temporal mercies thou art bestowing upon me from day to day, and particularly for the preservation and supplies of the day past, I would likewise offer thee my unfeigned tribute of gratitude and praise. Let a sense of thine unmerited goodness abide continually on my heart; and help me, not only to speak but to live to thy praise.

And now be pleased to take me, O Lord, into thy care and protection this night. Defend me from all evils and dangers; and refresh me with sweet and comfortable repose. Let me lie down with holy thoughts of thee;

and when I awake let me be still with thee.

I would commend to thy kind and gracious regards, all my relatives and friends. Do them good, and bless them with all such spiritual and temporal blessings as thou knowest to be most proper and needful for them. Visit, in mercy, such as are under affliction. Give them patience and submission to thy will; relieve their distresses; and afford them all necessary supports, and those divine consolations which are neither few nor small.

Extend, O thou God and Father of all, thy loving-kindness and compassion to the whole human race. Send the light of thy glorious gospel through every part of the habitable world; and, wheresoever it shines, may it be the means of spreading, not only knowledge and truth, but righteousness and peace, amongst men. Continue thy merciful regards to this land of my nativity. Inspire our rulers with wisdom and integrity: guide all our public councils and affairs for the best: watch over our liberties: pardon our national sins, and work a thorough reformation amongst us. Be gracious to all who minister in holy things; and succeed their endeavours for the promoting of the cause of

true religion by their useful instructions and exemplary lives.

Hear me, good Lord, in these my imperfect petitions: and mercifully accept of my evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. Keep me in thy fear and in thy favour through the remainder of my short and uncertain life; support and comfort me in my dying moments; and after death be thou my portion and exceeding great reward, through Jesus Christ, the Son of thy love;—in whom I desire to be found living and dying, and through whom I would ascribe to thee, O Heavenly Father, all honour, glory, and dominion, now and ever. Amen.

FOR MONDAY MORNING.

O MOST great, most gracious, and most glorious God! the Almighty Maker and All-wise Governor of the universe! the Father, the Friend, and Saviour of mankind! All possible excellence is centred in thee: all real and substantial good streams forth from thee: and under a lively sense of thine adorable perfections, thine inexhaustible fulness, thine unlimited bounty, would I this morning come before thee, to offer

thee my tribute of praise and thanksgiving, and to present my prayers and supplications at the throne of thy grace.

Adored be that power and goodness which at first brought me into being, and whereby I have been constantly supported and liberally supplied with all things needful to my comfortable subsistence in this present state. I thank thee particularly for the safety and repose of the last night; that I then laid me down and slept, and have awaked this morning in health and peace, because thou hast sustained me. Thus far, O thou Preserver of men, hast thou been pleased to spare my forfeited life: and, numberless as my sins and provocations against thee have been, thou art still following me with thy mercies and favours. Oh let me not despise the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long suffering; nor forget that it is the design of all to lead me to repentance.

Blessed be thy name for the encouragement thou hast given me to repent of my sins, by the kind assurance of thy readiness to pardon and accept of all who are truly penitent. Blessed be thy name that, unworthy as I am of the common bounties of thy providence, thou hast freely offered to

my acceptance, a share in the far richer treasures of thy grace. Never can I enough admire that unexampled love which thou hast manifested in sending thine only begotten Son into the world, that we might be formed to a life of holiness here by the influence of his word and spirit, and raised at length, by his mighty power, to a life of eternal glory and happiness in another and a better world. Suffer me not to neglect that great salvation which he has brought within my reach; but make me duly solicitous to secure an interest in it, by such a lively faith in him, as shall effectually engage me to devote myself to him in all the ways of holy obedience.

Help me, O God, to live under a constant sense of my absolute and entire dependence upon thee, as well as of my unspeakable obligations to thee; and impart to me those powerful influences of thy grace which are necessary to enable me to mortify my sinful inclinations, to bear afflictions as I ought, to make a right use of every mercy and enjoyment, and to discharge the various duties of life in a holy and acceptable manner. And whatever portion of time thou mayest allot me on earth, enable me to redeem it from

vanity and sin; and to employ it so as may turn to the best account, not only in the life that now is, but in that also which is to come. May I be making daily advances in all wisdom, righteousness, and goodness, in piety and purity, in humility and meekness, in contentment and heavenly-mindedness. Let me not be anxiously careful about the things of this life; but let me seek, in the first place, the blessings of thy kingdom, and that righteousness which thou requirest as the necessary qualification for the enjoyment of them; depending upon thy promise that all these things, so far as they are really needful, shall then be added to me.

Keep me this day in innocence and uprightness. In all my ways let me acknowledge thee, and do thou direct my paths. Teach me to guide my affairs with discretion; and in every respect to act in a manner suitable to the station wherein thy providence has placed me, and to the general relations which I sustain.

Bless the family to which I belong; and all my dear relatives and friends, whether near or at a distance. May we be all interested in thy peculiar favour and friendship, faithful in our duty to thee here on earth,

and happy in the enjoyment of thee hereafter in heaven. All which, and whatever else thou seest needful and proper for me, for them, and for all mankind, I humbly intreat for thy goodness sake in and through Christ Jesus thy Son; who has taught us to address thee under the endearing character of our Heavenly Father. Our Father, who art in heaven! &c.

FOR MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, my God, thou art ever merciful and gracious. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning, and of the evening, to rejoice over me. I desire at this time, with a grateful sense of the numberless favours thou hast conferred upon me, and art continually renewing day by day, to offer thee my evening sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. Let the words of mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight; O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

I adore thee as the author of my life and being, as the former of my body, and the father of my spirit. I bless thee that thou hast made me a rational creature; hast designed me for immortality; and hast placed

me here, in a state of discipline, in order to train me up, by a variety of exercises and trials, experiences and improvements, for the business and blessedness of another and better state.

And though I have, in many instances, acted in a manner unbecoming the dignity of my rational nature, and been far from answering, as I ought, the great ends of my creation; yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast not dealt with me according to my deserts; but hitherto hast thou upheld my soul in life, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. I thank thee, O Lord, for the watchful care and kind supplies of thy providence; for my health and strength; for my food and raiment; for my relatives and friends; and for all my social advantages and enjoyments.

But more especially would I praise thee for the advantages and opportunities thou hast afforded me, for improving in the knowledge and practice of true religion; for obtaining the pardon of my sins, and an interest in thy forfeited favour, through thy beloved Son; and for securing a title to that glorious inheritance, to the lively hope of which thou hast begotten us again, by his resurrection from the dead —an inheritance

incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Suffer me not, I beseech thee, to receive thy grace in vain; but teach me so highly to value, and so diligently to improve, all my present privileges and advantages, as that I may be prepared and qualified for those still greater blessings which thou wilt hereafter bestow on them that love and serve thee.

Forgive me, O thou Father of mercies, that I have hitherto made thee such unsuitable returns for thy great love and goodness; that I have been so negligent in the discharge of my social and relative duties; and so careless even about my own highest concerns, my spiritual and everlasting interests. Pardon all the innumerable transgressions and provocations of my past life; and particularly whatever thou hast seen amiss in my temper or conduct this day. Give me that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation, needing not to be repented of; and enable me to act a wiser and a better part in all respects for the time to come.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. May I give

all possible diligence to add to my faith fortitude, and to fortitude knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness universal charity; that so these things being in me and abounding, I may neither be inactive nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord. Thus let me make my calling and election to the privileges and hopes of the gospel, sure and steadfast; and obtain admission into the everlasting kingdom of my beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Make me particularly mindful of the duties I owe to those with whom I am especially connected by the ties of relation or friendship; and help me to take the most prudent and effectual means to promote their comfort and welfare. I commend them, gracious God, as well as myself, to thy blessing and favour. Direct us, O Lord, by thine unerring wisdom; defend us by thine almighty power; and provide for us by thy never-failing goodness; through the various scenes and changes of this transitory state: be our support and comfort in the awful hour of death, and our everlasting portion and felicity beyond the grave.

Thou hast brought me to the close of this day in safety, and I implore the continuance of thy care and protection this night. Watch over me, O thou Preserver of men, in my defenceless moments; and after quiet and refreshing sleep, raise me up in the morning fitted for the duties and events of another day. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me into that state where I shall serve thee without intermission, and yet without weariness, through a long, a happy, and an endless day.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father! Thou art the great Parent of the universe, and the supreme Lord of all; by whom all things were created at first, and are continually supported and governed. I adore the glorious perfections of thy nature,—the boundless power, wisdom, and goodness which thou hast displayed in all thy works; and most gratefully acknowledge the liberal communications of thy bounty and beneficence

to me, who am unworthy of the least of thy mercies. I bless thee for every instance of thy kindness and favour which I have experienced through all my past life; and particularly for the watchful care of thy good providence, by which I have been secured from the dangers of the last night, and brought to see another day, in peace and comfort.

Thy mercies, O Lord, are new unto me every morning; great is thy faithfulness: and hence it is that I am not consumed, even because thy compassions fail not. Had I been treated according to the number and weight of my transgressions, I should long since have been stripped of all my forfeited enjoyments.

But, blessed be thy name, I am still continued, a monument of thy patience and forbearance; furnished with a variety of good things relating to the life that now is; and encouraged to hope for far better blessings in the life to come, through thy wonderful love and grace manifested to a sinful world, by thy Son Jesus Christ. With admiration and gratitude would I contemplate the wise and gracious method thou hast contrived for recovering lost sinners to thyself, by the teaching and example, the sufferings

and death, the resurrection and ascension, of this our once abased, but now glorified Redeemer; who is able to save, even unto the uttermost, all that come unto thee by him; seeing that he ever lives to interpose for us.

Grant me, O most merciful God, an interest in the benefits of his undertaking. Help me to seek and secure the blessings of pardon, peace, and eternal life, by a cheerful compliance with those terms of repentance, faith, and new obedience, on which they are offered to my acceptance. Enable me rightly to value, and carefully to improve, all my present privileges and all my future prospects, as becometh a Christian. And by that grace of thine, which bringeth salvation for all men, teach me to deny all ungodliness, and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and piously in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let me choose thee, O thou greatest and best of beings, as my Lord and my God, my guide and my guardian, my portion and my felicity; and let me cheerfully resign myself to be governed, directed, and disposed of,

by thine unerring wisdom and never-failing mercy.

Help me this day, and every day, so to walk as to please thee, and to be constantly improving in the divine life and likeness. Keep me, by thy grace, from falling into sin, which is the greatest of all evils. Prepare me for the several trials that may lie before me, in this changing and transitory state; and especially for that great and most important change which I must pass through by death. Teach me to live always as I shall then wish to have lived. At that awful season put strength and confidence into my departing spirit: and after death receive me into thy more immediate presence, where there is fulness of joy; to dwell at thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY EVENING.

Most great and glorious God! with all humility and reverence would I prostrate myself before thee, under a deep and affecting sense of thy majesty, and my own meanness; of thy bounty, and my own indigence; of thy holiness, and my own guilt.

Without thee, O Lord, I can do nothing. Upon thee do I constantly depend for life, and breath, and being. I need the perpetual exertion of thy power for the continuance of my existence, and the support of my faculties: I need thy wisdom to direct my uncertain steps; thy goodness to supply my daily wants; thy mercy to pardon my numberless sins; and thy grace to assist me in the discharge of my duties. It is a source of grateful joy that thou art ever ready to aid and befriend me.

Most thankfully would I acknowledge, that hitherto thou, O Lord, hast helped and sustained me; provided for my necessities both of soul and body; and raised me, by the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, to the hopes and prospects of eternal glory. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; and crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

What reason have I, great God, to lament that my heart has been no more affected with a sense of thy goodness; that I have in many instances abused thy favours; and not only neglected thy service, but acted in direct

opposition to thy holy nature and will! I have neither obeyed nor loved thee as I ought; but have rebelled against thy sovereign authority, and made the most unworthy returns for all the manifestations of thy paternal tenderness.

O Lord God, gracious and merciful! pity my infirmity, and pardon my sins. And though I have so long, so often, and so ungratefully offended thee; yet cast me not off from thy presence, but effectually recover me from my wanderings to duty and thyself.

Oh that I may daily be making some advances in religious knowledge, by reading, meditation, and a diligent use and improvement of all those helps with which I am or may be furnished for this purpose. Grant that the more I know of thy nature, thy will, and thy grace, the more I may be disposed to love thee, with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength; to yield a cheerful compliance with thy sovereign will; and to hope and trust, to rejoice and delight myself in thee.

And whilst I am endeavouring to fulfill the first and great commandment, by making thee, O most glorious and gracious God, the object of my supreme veneration and affection, submission and confidence, suffer me not to for-

get the second, which is like unto it, of loving my neighbour as myself. May I strive to cultivate a sincere good-will for all mankind; —fervently wishing the happiness of every one; rejoicing in that tender love which thou exercisest towards all thy creatures; and cheerfully contributing whatever lies in my power to relieve the distresses and to promote the welfare of those that are round about me. Especially may I be found in the discharge of those duties and obligations which result from the particular station, circumstances, and relations, wherein thy providence has placed me.

Accept my thanksgivings for the mercies of the day past, which thou hast added to the sum of all thy past favours. Long as I live will I praise the Lord; and magnify his holy name, while I have any being. Pardon whatever has been amiss in my disposition or behaviour this day; and enable me to be more upon my guard against offending thee, for the time to come.

Watch over me this night. Suffer not any evil thing to come nigh this dwelling. May I lie down in thy fear; be refreshed with seasonable rest and sleep; and arise in thy favour, fitted and disposed for the duties of

the following day. And grant that every day which thou shalt please to add to my life on earth, may be so spent and improved, as to increase my fitness for the joys and glories of the heavenly state, through Jesus Christ thy Son; in whose most comprehensive words I continue to pray for myself, and for all my brethren of mankind:

Our Father, who art in heaven, &c.

FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O THOU infinite great and adorable majesty of heaven and earth! Thou art ever present in all parts of thy vast dominions, and not far from any of thy creatures. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts afar off; thou compassest my path, and my lying-down; and art acquainted with all my ways.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit; or whither shall I flee from thy presence? It is as impossible to escape the notice of thine eye, O Lord, as it is to subsist without thy supporting hand, or to be happy without thy favour: for even the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to

thee. May I therefore be careful to set thee, the Lord, always before me; to remember, wherever I am, and whatever I am about, that thou God seest me; to live under a constant sense of my necessary dependence upon thee, and of my numberless obligations to thee; and acordingly to seek thy favour with my whole heart, and to dread thy displeasure above all things.

How deeply am I indebted to that goodness which at first gave me being, and has hitherto upheld me in life; preserved me from perpetual dangers; and granted me so many days of comfort and nights of repose! How precious are thy thoughts of kindness and acts of mercy unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I attempt to count them, they are more in number than the sand. When I awake I am still with thee; and see new occasions every morning to meditate on thy unwearied tenderness and care. But my highest obligations are to thy sovereign grace, for supplying me with the means of religious instruction, and for setting before me the views and hopes of immortal life and happiness in the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. Blessed be thy name for all thou hast done towards the promotion of my temporal, spiri-

to me, who am unworthy of the least of thy mercies. I bless thee for every instance of thy kindness and favour which I have experienced through all my past life; and particularly for the watchful care of thy good providence, by which I have been secured from the dangers of the last night, and brought to see another day, in peace and comfort.

Thy mercies, O Lord, are new unto me every morning; great is thy faithfulness: and hence it is that I am not consumed, even because thy compassions fail not. Had I been treated according to the number and weight of my transgressions, I should long since have been stripped of all my forfeited enjoyments.

But, blessed be thy name, I am still continued, a monument of thy patience and forbearance; furnished with a variety of good things relating to the life that now is; and encouraged to hope for far better blessings in the life to come, through thy wonderful love and grace manifested to a sinful world, by thy Son Jesus Christ. With admiration and gratitude would I contemplate the wise and gracious method thou hast contrived for recovering lost sinners to thyself, by the teaching and example, the sufferings

Thou hast brought me to the close of this day in safety, and I implore the continuance of thy care and protection this night. Watch over me, O thou Preserver of men, in my defenceless moments; and after quiet and refreshing sleep, raise me up in the morning fitted for the duties and events of another day. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me into that state where I shall serve thee without intermission, and yet without weariness, through a long, a happy, and an endless day.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father! Thou art the great Parent of the universe, and the supreme Lord of all; by whom all things were created at first, and are continually supported and governed. I adore the glorious perfections of thy nature,—the boundless power, wisdom, and goodness which thou hast displayed in all thy works; and most gratefully acknowledge the liberal communications of thy bounty and beneficence

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and death, the resurrection and ascension, of this our once abased, but now glorified Redeemer; who is able to save, even unto the uttermost, all that come unto thee by him; seeing that he ever lives to interpose for us.

Grant me, O most merciful God, an interest in the benefits of his undertaking. Help me to seek and secure the blessings of pardon, peace, and eternal life, by a cheerful compliance with those terms of repentance, faith, and new obedience, on which they are offered to my acceptance. Enable me rightly to value, and carefully to improve, all my present privileges and all my future prospects, as becometh a Christian. And by that grace of thine, which bringeth salvation for all men, teach me to deny all ungodliness, and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and piously in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let me choose thee, O thou greatest and best of beings, as my Lord and my God, my guide and my guardian, my portion and my felicity; and let me cheerfully resign myself to be governed, directed, and disposed of,

by thine unerring wisdom and never-failing mercy.

Help me this day, and every day, so to walk as to please thee, and to be constantly improving in the divine life and likeness. Keep me, by thy grace, from falling into sin, which is the greatest of all evils. Prepare me for the several trials that may lie before me, in this changing and transitory state; and especially for that great and most important change which I must pass through by death. Teach me to live always as I shall then wish to have lived. At that awful season put strength and confidence into my departing spirit: and after death receive me into thy more immediate presence, where there is fulness of joy; to dwell at thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY EVENING.

Most great and glorious God! with all humility and reverence would I prostrate myself before thee, under a deep and affecting sense of thy majesty, and my own meanness; of thy bounty, and my own indigence; of thy holiness, and my own guilt.

Without thee, O Lord, I can do nothing. Upon thee do I constantly depend for life, and breath, and being. I need the perpetual exertion of thy power for the continuance of my existence, and the support of my faculties: I need thy wisdom to direct my uncertain steps; thy goodness to supply my daily wants; thy mercy to pardon my numberless sins; and thy grace to assist me in the discharge of my duties. It is a source of grateful joy that thou art ever ready to aid and befriend me.

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tual, and eternal welfare. Lord, help me to profit by thy gracious and merciful designs; and let me not frustrate them by my own carelessness, ingratitude, and rebellion against thee.

Give me, good Lord, a just sense of my unworthiness, folly, and guilt. What I know not, do thou teach me; and whereinsoever I have done iniquity, or acted contrary to any of the laws of piety, truth, charity, purity, or sobriety, may I do so no more. Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.

May I live continually in thy fear, and be ever on my guard against the many snares and temptations with which I am surrounded. Help to keep my heart with all diligence, knowing that from thence are the issues of life. Let no vain thoughts, or corrupt imaginations, be harboured in my mind. Let me not give way to any unruly passions, or inordinate affections. Let me set a watch at the door of my lips, and take heed that I offend not with my tongue. Suffer me not, I beseech thee, to fall into irregularity of conduct. May I daily walk with thee in a

course of holy living, so as to approve myself in thy sight: and not only, from a principle of godly fear, solicitously avoid whatever is offensive in thy sight; but also from the nobler principle of love, make it my supreme delight to serve, and imitate, and please thee.

Prepare me, O Lord, for all the occurrences of the day. Teach me to see and own thy hand in every mercy and enjoyment. Or, if thou sufferest any trouble or affliction to befal me, help me in a becoming manner to submit to thy will; believing that it is good for me to be afflicted; and endeavouring, by a wise improvement of thy chastisement, to become a partaker of thy holiness.

Mercifully comfort such as are cast down; and be a present help to them that are in trouble. Let thy blessing be upon every member of the family to which I belong. Assist us all in the faithful discharge of our respective duties, and make us mutual blessings to each other. Guide us by thy counsel through life, and afterwards receive us to glory.

All I humbly entreat for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus; in whose name I would ascribe to thy divine Majesty, all honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, both now and evermore. Amen.

FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GREAT and glorious God! Thy mercies are new unto me every morning, and thy faithfulness every evening. Through thy good hand upon me, I am now brought to the close of another day: and I would take this occasion to reflect with gratitude on thy great and undeserved goodness to me, all the days of my past life; to acknowledge my obligations to thee for all that I am, and all that I have; and my entire dependance upon thee for all that I need, and for all thou hast encouraged me to hope for;—humbly entreating that thou wilt enable me to honour and praise thee, to love and serve thee, as the most excellent, amiable, and beneficent of all beings, my Father and my Friend, my Lord and my God.

With shame and sorrow must I confess myself unworthy of thy mercies. I lament that I have made no better improvement of them; and that the God in whose hand my breath is, and whose are all my ways, I have not glorified as I ought.

Thou, O Lord, knowest all my transgressions. Help me truly and sincerely to repent of them; so that I may be entitled to thy pardon, through the redemption that is

in Christ Jesus thy Son. Blessed be thy name that thou hast not left me in a helpless and hopeless state; but that there is mercy and forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and that in thy right hand there is plenteous redemption. Blessed be thy name for that covenant of grace and peace which thou hast established with us by the gospel; wherein the promises of pardon, acceptance, and eternal life, are made to those who return unto thee in the way of repentance, faith, and new obedience; and the assistance of thy holy spirit is offered to all that ask it. May I be enabled so to comply with the terms of this covenant as to be entitled to an interest in its inestimable blessings; and may I study to make a proper improvement of them by a continual progress in grace and holiness.

Oh that I may redeem the time that I have lost, by applying myself with increasing diligence to the practice of my duty in its whole extent. Make me more faithful and constant in thy service and more ready to every good work than I have hitherto been. May true wisdom and piety, justice and mercy, temperance and patience, humility and meekness adorn the whole remainder of my life. And whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things

are venerable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, may I so think of these things, as to make them the constant objects of my pursuit and practice.

Permit not any worldly allurements or terror to turn me aside from the strait path of my duty. May I esteem the pleasures of religion and a good conscience, as incomparably superior to all sensual pleasures or criminal indulgencies. Suffer me not to be anxiously careful about any inferior or temporal concerns, so as to neglect the one thing needful, —the great business of religion and the security of my immortal interests. But help me, good Lord, to be every day making some preparation for my approaching change, and for appearing before thee with acceptance, when, after death, I shall be called to judgement. And by a patient continuance in well doing, may I so seek for honour, glory, and immortality, as in the end to obtain eternal life.

Pity and reform a world that lies in wickedness. Direct our common and national concerns, so as may be most conductive to the

Without thee, O Lord, I can do nothing. Upon thee do I constantly depend for life, and breath, and being. I need the perpetual exertion of thy power for the continuance of my existence, and the support of my faculties: I need thy wisdom to direct my uncertain steps; thy goodness to supply my daily wants; thy mercy to pardon my numberless sins; and thy grace to assist me in the discharge of my duties. It is a source of grateful joy that thou art ever ready to aid and befriend me.

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Watch over me this night. Suffer not any evil thing to come nigh this dwelling. May I lie down in thy fear; be refreshed with seasonable rest and sleep; and arise in thy favour, fitted and disposed for the duties of

mighty power, from the dominion and tyranny of every worldly and fleshly lust; from pride, vain glory, and hypocrisy; from the bondage of corrupt habits, the influence of vain customs, and the contagion of evil examples. Fix the great principles of religion deeply upon my heart. Fill my soul with good affections towards thyself, and towards all my fellow-creatures; and may the whole of my conduct be governed and regulated thereby. And enable me so to improve all the dispensations of thy providence, the instructions of thy word, and the influence of thy spirit, as to be daily advancing from grace to grace, and from strength, to strength, till I shall at length appear perfect before thee in Zion.

To thee, O God, who has kept me the night past, and caused the light of another morning to open with comfort upon me, would I again commend myself; entreating the continuance of thy kind and favourable regards this day. Preserve me from the snares and dangers to which I may be exposed; and especially from the sins which most easily beset me. Quicken me to the discharge of the several duties that may lie before me; and prepare me for whatever occurrences I may meet with, whether prosperous or adverse.

Remember all my relations and friends to do them good. Forgive my enemies, if I have any; and enable me to forgive them. Pity and relieve those that are in distress; and suit thy blessings to the wants, capacities, and qualifications of all thy creatures. Graciously hear these my humble requests, which I offer up to thee in the name of Jesus, the son of thy love: through whom to thee, O heavenly Father, I would ascribe everlasting praises. Amen.

FOR THURSDAY EVENING.

HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come! Thou art the righteous Lord, who lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity. Thy countenance beholdeth the upright with the most favourable regards; but thou hast no pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with thee. Yet notwithstanding thine irreconcileable aversion to sin, thou art nevertheless kind and compassionate to returning sinners; slow to anger and of great mercy; not willing that they should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

With shame and sorrow for the numberless

sins and offences of my past life, and particularly for what I have thought, or said, or done amiss this day, would I now humble myself before thee; admiring that goodness and patience of thine, which I have so ungratefully abused; and resolving, in the strength of thy grace, to depart from all iniquity, and to regulate my future temper and conduct iu a manner more agreeable to thy holy nature and will.

Enable me, O thou great pattern of all moral excellence, to purify myself, as thou art pure; to hate all sin with a perfect hatred; effectually to renounce and forsake every evil way, and to return unto thee with my whole heart. As thou, who hast called me to the profession and privileges of the true religion, art holy, so may I be holy, in all manner of conversation.

Thou hast given us a perfect rule to walk by; but, alas! how exceedingly defective is our best obedience! Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults: let them not have dominion over me: but may I so live as to maintain my integrity, and to be accounted upright before thee; being innocent from all great and from all allowed transgressions.

Give me, O God, such views of thy greatness and goodness, and especially of thy love and mercy to a lost world, through thy Son Jesus Christ, as may fill my soul with reverence and admiration, with love and gratitude, with hope and confidence; such as may draw out my strongest desires after thee, and engage me to repose and delight myself in thee. Help me to yield an unreserved obedience to all thy commands, and a humble submission to all the disposals of thy providence. Let me always live and act under a sense of thy presence; and be careful to keep up such a daily intercourse and communion with thee, as may tend to cherish every pious disposition and affection, and to fit me for nearer approaches to thee, and an uninterrupted enjoyment of thee in the world to come.

Teach me, O thou Father of spirits, seriously to consider the nature of my own soul, and to set a suitable value upon it. Conscious of the dignity and importance of this immortal principle, let me labour and resolve to secure its happiness, whatever present gratifications are to be resigned, or whatever temporal sufferings are to be endured to that end. Help me so to cultivate and improve

my understanding, and so to govern my affections, passions, and appetites, as shall not only prevent me from injuring myself or others, but best answer the great ends of my creation, and promote my noblest satisfaction and enjoyment. May I be clothed with humility; and be decked with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in thy sight of great price. May I be temperate in all things; pure in heart, and chaste in conversation; maintaining a fixed abhorrence of all prohibited sensual indulgences. May I learn, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content: and let patience have her perfect work, that I may be complete and entire, wanting nothing.

Form me, likewise, I beseech thee, O thou who lovest righteousness, peace, and truth, to a proper temper towards my fellow creatures. Make me careful to render unto all their dues, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men. May I take pleasure in doing every good office in my power to all around me; and especially to those with whom I am most nearly connected by the ties of natural relation, affinity, or friendship. And grant that, in my general conduct, I may act under the influence of that wisdom which

is from above; which is first pure, and then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Extend thy merciful regards to the whole world of mankind. Send the light of thy glorious gospel to the most distant parts of the earth; and make it every where effectual to enlighten the ignorant, to reclaim the vicious, and to promote the knowledge of divine truth, and the practice of universal holiness amongst men. Dwell in this land of my nativity; be the watchful guardian of our rights and liberties: reform us from the highest to the lowest; and delight over us still to do us good. Relieve and comfort all that are in distress. Give success to the labours of the honest and industrious: cause the earth to bring forth her increase in due season; and satisfy our poor with bread.

Accept, good Lord, my humble grateful acknowledgement, for all the blessings, spiritual and temporal, personal and relative, with which thou hast favoured me thus far in life; and particularly for the mercies of the day past. I would take encouragement from hence cheerfully to confide in the continuance of thy care and kindness. Into thy

hands I commit the keeping of myself, and of all that are most dear to me, this night. Protect us, if it be thy will, from every evil and danger; grant us quiet and comfortable repose; raise us up again in health and safety the ensuing day; and preserve us to thy heavenly kingdom, through thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR FRIDAY MORNING.

MOST glorious God! Thou art light; and in thee is no darkness at all. The perfections of thy nature are transcendently excellent; far beyond all our ideas and conceptions. Thou art possessed of irresistible power, and unerring wisdom. Thou art the blessed and only Potentate, who alone hast immortality. Thou dwellest in light inaccessible; and art the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning; and from thee all thy creatures derive whatever advantages they possess. Thou, O Lord, art the great source and original of all our natural powers and capacities; of all our moral attainments and improvements; of all the good we do, and of all the blessings we either enjoy or hope for.

I praise thee for the discoveries thou hast made of thy transcendent glories, in the works of thine hands; in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; in the infinite varieties of thy creatures around me, and in my own stupendous frame of body and mind. But more especially would I praise thee for the brighter discoveries of thy word; and that though no man hath seen God at any time, yet the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, hath declared him unto us. I adore thee, O Lord, for all the sacred and important instructions which he hath communicated, concerning thy nature and will, thy love and grace; and particularly that he hath brought life and immortality to light by his glorious gospel, and directed our feet into those paths of righteousness which lead to certain and endless bliss.

Shine, O thou great Parent of light, into my dark and beclouded mind: dispel the shades of ignorance and error; and give me that spiritual wisdom whereby I may be enabled to discern things that are excellent. Help me to walk all the day in the light of thy countenance; and in thy light may I see light. Nor let me take up with the bare knowledge of thy will, but set myself to do

it with diligence, fidelity, and zeal. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth. Grant that my faith may grow exceedingly: let it purify my heart, and work by love, and bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Make me sensible of the force and efficacy of those motives to holiness and virtue which are set before me in the gospel. Enable me to work the work of him that hath sent me, while it is day; knowing that the night cometh wherein no man can work. Whatsoever my hand findeth to do, for advancing thine honour and interest in the world; for promoting the welfare of others, especially of those for whom I ought to be peculiarly concerned; or for securing the salvation of my own soul; may I do it with all my might: and may I be careful to make the best improvement I am able, of whatever portion of time thou mayest add to my earthly pilgrimage. And grant that I may walk in that path of the just, which is as the shining light, and will shine more and more unto the perfect day.

Accept of my grateful acknowledgments, O Lord, for the care thou hast taken of me, and the numberless favours thou hast con-

ferred upon me, from the beginning of my life to the present moment; and particularly for the security and repose of the night past: may this day pass over my head in innocence and peace; and every part of it be spent so as to turn to some good account to myself or others. To thy care and blessing I commend myself, and all that are near and dear to me; entreating that thou wilt keep us always in thy fear, and encompass us with thy favour. Help us to serve thee faithfully while we live; and make us happy in thee, and with thee, after death; through Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son; in whose name and words I would sum up all my requests for myself and others, to thee—Our Father, &c.

FOR FRIDAY EVENING.

O BLESSED GOD, thou Father of mercies, and God of all grace, peace, and consolation! Thou art love; the most benevolent of all beings; the great eternal fountain of felicity. Thou, and thou only, art originally, perfectly, and essentially good in thyself; and thou delightest in doing good continually. Thou art good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. All thy works

praise thee, O Lord, and it becomes thy saints to bless thee; and in a particular manner to magnify thy goodness, that supremely glorious and amiable perfection of thy nature, which renders thee the worthy object of our most delightful contemplation and grateful praise. I would rejoice in all the displays of thy diffusive benevolence, through the whole creation around me; but more especially would I praise thee for the wonderful acts and instances of thy loving kindness to the children of men; and for the experience that I myself have had of thy bounty and benignity.

I adore thee, as the Former and the Father of mankind; whose wise and powerful goodness is manifested in the curious structure of our bodies, but much more in the sublime powers and faculties of our minds; whereby we are most nearly allied to thee our Maker, and rendered capable of knowing, loving, serving, imitating, and enjoying thee, the great origin and source of life and light, perfection, glory, and blessedness.

I adore thee likewise for every instance and effect of thy providential care and kindness, which I have experienced in common with the rest of mankind; and for those

measures of bodily health and strength that I individually enjoy: for the free and regular exercise of my mental powers; for my liberty, my friends, and all the necessaries, conveniences, and comforts, which thy liberal hand has provided, to render my passage through this state of trial and discipline easy and agreeable to me.

But above all things would I praise thee for the provision thou hast made for my future well-being, in another and better state of existence, after this present life shall be ended. Adored be the riches of thy redeeming love and grace, as manifested in sending forth thine only Son into the world; and by his life and doctrine, his sufferings and death, his resurrection from the dead, and the power and authority with which he is invested at thy right hand, to effect the pardon, sanctification, and salvation of all who will submit to be taught, to be ruled, and to be saved by him.

But while I am thus thankfully recognising these expressions and displays of thy matchless love and paternal tenderness, how much reason have I to lament my past ingratitude, and the many unworthy returns I have made for thy great and unmerited goodness! Fa-

ther, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight; and am no longer worthy to be owned or treated as a child of thine. But thou hast proclaimed thyself to be the Lord God, merciful and gracious; long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy for thousands; forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. This is thy name for ever; and in this name would I hope and trust. Oh cast me not off from thy presence, I beseech thee; and take not thy holy spirit from me: but in the multitude of thy tender mercies remember thou me. Blot out all my transgressions; wash me thoroughly from my iniquity; and cleanse me from my sins.

May I always retain such a grateful sense of my obligations to thee, as shall prove a principle of constant and universal obedience to thy laws, and engage me greatly to delight in thy commandments. May I fear thee the Lord, and thy goodness; and dread nothing so much as to abuse thy kindness, and weary out thy patience. May I love thee also above all; and considering thee as my portion and chief good, let the desires of my soul be drawn out after thee, and my delight be centred in thee.

And help me, O thou God of love, to cul-

tivate a most sincere and cordial benevolence to all my fellow-creatures,—regarding them as thine offspring, and doing the utmost, within my little sphere, to promote their welfare, and to advance that happiness which is the great end of all thy works of creation, providence, and redemption. But let me love those with a peculiar and distinguishing affection, who are most like thee, and who are the objects of thy special love. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and clamour, and evil-speaking, be put away from me, with all malice; and may I be kind to those about me, tender-hearted, and ready to forgive such as may offend me, even as I hope, through Jesus Christ, to obtain forgiveness of thee. Teach me to love even my enemies, to wish well to them that hate me, (if any such there be,) and to return good for evil; that so I may approve myself one of thy genuine children, and be merciful as thou art merciful, and perfect as thou my heavenly Father art perfect.

From my past experience of thy tender care and unwearied kindness, I would take encouragement to hope that goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my future life; and desire most cheerfully to trust

thee with myself, and with all that belong to me, to be disposed of as thou shalt see good. Into thy hands I commend myself this night, both soul and body. Let me lie down with holy and delightful thoughts of thee; and in the morning, when I awake, let my heart be raised afresh in sentiments of love and gratitude to thee: and, with renewed pleasure and resolution, let me devote the remainder of my life to thy service. These my supplications and thanksgivings I humbly offer up to thee, O most merciful Father, in the name of Jesus Christ thy well-beloved Son, and my all-sufficient Saviour; to whom be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and infinite Jehovah! Thou art God, and there is none besides thee,—the great original and support of universal nature; who derivest thy being from none, but givest being to all things. Thou art supremely blessed in thyself, and the author of all good to thy creatures. Thou, O Lord, art worthy to receive honour, and glory, and blessing; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created,

for the display of thy goodness, and the communication of thy felicity. Oh that I may be enabled to praise and glorify thee as I ought; and to seek my chief happiness in thee alone!

May I always regard thee as my origin, and end. May I ever bear in mind that my own being, in particular, is derived from thee, and is perpetually supported by thee; and that it is in consequence of having obtained help of God, that I continue unto this day, an instance of thy sparing and preserving mercy, and a witness of thy overflowing beneficence. How liberally hast thou provided, most gracious Lord, not only for the supply of my wants, but for my innocent delight and comfort! What a profusion of gratifications for the senses and the imagination! What nobler pleasures for the entertainment of the understanding, in the discovery of the most sublime and important truths! And, above all, how much am I indebted to thee for those moral powers and capacities with which thou hast endowed me; for those benevolent propensities implanted in my nature, which, while they carry me out of myself, contribute so largely to my own felicity; and for that highest of all human satisfactions,

which arises from knowing, loving, serving and enjoying thee, under the endearing characters of my Father and Friend, my portion and chief good!

Oh that my heart may be duly affected with a sense of the benefits thou hast already conferred upon me; and of the more valuable blessings thou hast encouraged me to hope for hereafter, by the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ! Continue to me, I beseech thee, all needful communications of thy mercy and favour. Grant me such a share of outward accommodations and enjoyments as thou mayest see convenient for me; but above all, lead me in the paths of righteousness, towards the true perfection and blessedness of my nature.

Forgive me, great and blessed God, that I have wandered so far from thee; that I have been so unmindful of the duties I owe thee; and have taken so little care to secure that felicity which is centred in thee. Convince me, that in thy favour only there is life; and that thy loving-kindness is better than life, with all its enjoyments. Help me to choose thee as my all-sufficient and never-failing portion; and accordingly to hope, and trust, and delight myself in thee. And

let it be my constant care and endeavour, so to order my inward temper, and my outward conduct and behaviour, as is most agreeable to thy will; so as most effectually to gain thy favour and approbation; and thereby to secure, not only my present peace and comfort, but my future and everlasting welfare.

Enable me this day to walk closely with thee; to act as under the notice of thine eye, and to rejoice in the manifestations of thy love. Prepare me for whatever scenes of prosperity or adversity may lie before me; and grant success to all my endeavours after self-improvement, and usefulness to others. Bless all my friends, relations, and acquaintance: unite us all to one another, in the bonds of mutual love; and to thyself, by the practice of piety and holiness. And grant that after having served thee, and our generation, according to thy will, in our several stations here on earth, we may at length be received into the joys and glories of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ thy Son, the great Captain of our salvation.

Now unto him, of whom, and through whom, and to whom, are all things, be glory for ever. Amen.

FOR SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU supremely great and incomprehensibly glorious being! Thou infinite and eternal spirit; who art the only living and true God, unchangeable in thy nature, universal in thy presence, and uncontrolable in thy dominion; of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things!

No works are like unto thy works: no excellencies and perfections are worthy to be compared with thine; which shine forth in all thy designs of creation, of providence, and of redemption. I desire to meditate upon them with a sacred and salutary delight. Enable me, O thou Father of spirits, to worship thee in spirit and in truth; to revere thine irresistible power; to admire the depths of thine unsearchable wisdom; and to rejoice in all the communications and displays of thine exuberant goodness. Help me so to contemplate the beauty and glory of thy moral attributes, thy truth and righteousness, thy purity and benignity, as that I may be transformed into the same image, from glory to glory. And from a full conviction of the equity of thy government, and the beneficial design and tendency of all thy laws, may I be disposed to yield a cheerful and unre-

served compliance with every intimation of thy will.

Forgive me, O most gracious God, that my thoughts have been no more fixed upon thee; that my devout affections have been so little engaged; that I have been so unlike to thee, the pattern of all perfection; and have taken so little care to serve and please thee. Under a deep and humbling sense of past sin and folly, I would now resolve, by thy divine assistance, to cultivate a growing acquaintance with thee, and all suitable dispositions towards thee; a greater conformity to thine adorable excellencies, in the spirit of my mind; and a more entire obedience to thy precepts, in the course of my life: that so I may bring forth all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Christ Jesus, to the praise and glory of God.

Blessed be thy name, O God of grace, for the revelation thou hast made of thyself to us, of the duties thou requirest of us, and of the blessedness which thou hast designed for us, in the gospel of thy Son. I praise thee that thou didst send him into the world, to offer pardon and forgiveness to penitent offenders; to point out the way to eternal life and happiness, through his instructions

and example; and to seal the promises of that new covenant, of which he was the mediator, with his dying blood. And as, by thy determinate counsel and foreknowledge, he was delivered up to sufferings and death, for our offences; so I praise thee that, by the energy of thy mighty power, he was raised again for our justification; that we might have the fullest assurance of our acceptance with God, through him; and that, because he lives, we might live also.

Grant me, O Lord, I beseech thee, a saving interest in the blessed fruits of his life and doctrine, of his sufferings and death, of his resurrection and exaltation at thy right hand. And for this end, excite and cherish in my soul a true, lively, and efficacious faith in him. Make me imbibe the spirit as well as the doctrine of Jesus, my gracious Lord. May the same mind be in me which was also in him. May I take his yoke upon me, and learn of him who was meek, and lowly of heart, that so I may find rest to my soul. And help me in all respects to walk worthy of that high and holy calling wherewith he has called me; worthy of the great and important privileges that are conferred upon me, and of the glorious hopes that are set before me.

Raise my affections, more and more, blessed God, to those things which are above; and teach me to moderate my regards to all inferior and sensible objects. Free me from all inordinate cares about the things of this life; from all distrust of thy good providence; from all repining language, and discontented thoughts. And enable me in every situation and circumstance of life to be not only patient and resigned, but cheerful and thankful; knowing that all things are ordered by thee in the wisest and best manner, and so as shall work together for good to them that love thee.

Most gratefully would I adore that goodness and mercy of thine, that have attended me all my days, and supplied me with all things needful to my comfortable subsistence in life. And I particularly bless thee, at this time, for the protection and supplies of the day and week past. Pardon, I beseech thee, whatever fresh guilt I may have contracted therein. And as one day and week is passing away, after another, in swift succession, let me be careful to redeem the time I have lost or mis-spent, by a redoubled diligence in thy service, for the remainder of my uncertain life; and to improve every opportunity of doing or receiving good, and of

preparing for that eternal state to which I am hastening. Continue thy watchful care over me this night; and grant me such refreshing sleep as may fit me for serving thee acceptably and profitably, on thy own day ensuing.

And, O thou common Father of mankind, permit me to breathe forth my fervent wishes for the welfare of all my brethren; the fellow-members of that great family of thine, which is spread over all the earth. Oh that all may be partakers, not only of the bounties of thy providence, but of the richer blessings of thy grace; that all may so come to the knowledge of thy truth, as to be saved according to thy gracious will, through Jesus Christ, the mediator between God and man; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time! Let all christian churches every where flourish, and abound in truth and peace, in love, and in all good works. Let the lands of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, be still favoured by thee; and let the inhabitants thereof be careful to make a better improvement of thy distinguished favours. Bless our rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate; and make their administration pro-

ductive of great and extensive good. Give success to the labours of those who preach the gospel of thy Son, in its purity and simplicity; and may the power of godliness be visible in the lives of all professing christians. Have mercy on such as are in affliction; and afford them suitable and seasonable relief. Bless the family to which I belong; may every member of it be graciously regarded by thee; and may all my friends be thine. Preserve them from all real evil; and delight over them, to do them good.

And now unto thee, the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, for ever. Amen.

SUPPLEMENT

TO

MR. MERIVALE'S DAILY DEVOTIONS

FOR THE CLOSET.

FOR THE LORD'S DAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God! Thou art the High and Holy One, who dwellest in that light which no mortal can approach unto: but thou art ever gracious and compassionate; our Father in heaven; tenderly concerned for the happiness of all thy creatures. May I, thy rational creature, ever esteem it my highest honour and distinguished privilege, that I am capable of contemplating the perfections of thy nature.

Conscious of my own weakness, I bow before thee, the Father of my spirit and the Author of every good and perfect gift, humbly and earnestly imploring thy aids, to animate me to the exercise of every devout, benevolent, and virtuous disposition; to fortify my good resolutions; and to make me superior to every temptation and difficulty in the Christian course.

Look down with compassion, O Father of mercies, on thy frail and dependent creature, surrounded with wants, which I cannot of myself supply; beset with dangers and snares, which I cannot foresee, or prevent; and liable, every moment of my life, to be seduced by temptations into the paths of error and folly. Never leave me to myself; never forsake me, O God of my salvation. Conduct me with innocence, safety, and honour, through the various stages of mortal life: and when thou hast answered the ends of thy providence by me here on earth, may I finish my course with joy, and after death have an abundant entrance administered unto me into thine everlasting kingdom.

Enable me, O God of wisdom, to make a wise and faithful improvement of the seasons and means of religious edification. May I, this day, worship thee, the One Infinite and Eternal Spirit, in spirit and in truth. May my heart be affected with deep humility, with fervent gratitude, with ardent devotion, when I join my fellow-creatures in offering up the acknowledgments of homage and praise to thee, our benevolent Creator, to thee, our unwearied Benefactor, in whom we live, move, and have our being.

May I engage in the several acts of public worship with pious affections, and with such dispositions of mind as become the disciple of the blessed Jesus. May I receive the divine principles and sacred lessons of evangelical truth and wisdom, into a candid, teachable, unprejudiced heart. May thy word dwell richly and habitually in me, becoming the spring of consolation and the rule of conduct.

May the opportunities of religious improvement, sacred to devotion and virtue, be my delight. May all who profess to believe in thee, the only true God, and in Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, improve these seasons to the sacred purposes to which they are subservient. May all worshipping assemblies be animated by the true spirit of prayer and devotion. May thy blessing accompany the preaching of the everlasting gospel. May all its ministers be enlightened, faithful and zealous; and may the truth, as it is in Jesus, display its divine energy, in the instruction of the ignorant, the conversion of the sinner, and the edification of the serious Christian, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.

May I meet those with whom I shall worship this day, in the spirit of Christian affec-

tion and charity. With hearts united by one faith and one hope, may we, as the disciples of one Lord, Jesus Christ, bow before thee, the one God and Father of all. May our souls experience the satisfaction of religion, and of social devotion. May I, at length, be found worthy to meet my fellow-worshippers before thy eternal throne in heaven; there to adore thee in the sublimest anthems of homage and praise; and to be united to the saints of all ages, and to the angels of light, for ever to celebrate thy perfections, to enjoy thy favour, and to magnify that love, which hath called us to eternal glory through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR THE LORD'S DAY EVENING.

O God of my adoration and trust! Thou art most condescending, gracious, and beneficent. Thou dost invite thy rational and dependent creatures to draw nigh to thy throne, to worship thee, and to seek thy favour. Drawn by thy goodness, I have, this day, joined the assembly of worshipping people, and united with them in offering up the tribute of homage and praise to thee, the great Parent of all. I bless thee, O God of

my life, for a day of rest and devotion. I bless thee for the renewed opportunities which thy providence hath afforded me, to wait upon thee in thy earthly courts, to receive the instructions of heavenly truth, and to pour out before thee, in sacred fellowship with the professors of the same faith and heirs of the same hope, our common prayers and supplications. Accept my humble and fervent thanksgivings for my participation in the privileges and happiness of those who behold the displays of thy grace in the house of prayer, who hear the joyful sound of salvation, and are addressed with the words of eternal life. I bow down before thee, O Lord, my God, in the consolatory persuasion, that amongst the thousands and thousands of thousands who have united to celebrate thy perfections and implore thy mercy, not one sincere, humble, and grateful worshipper is overlooked and forgotten by thee, whose eye is over all, whose ear listens to the breathing of every devout heart. I humbly and greatly rejoice in the hope, that my prayer hath ascended to heaven, and that my adorations and praises have been accepted.

It becometh me to confess the languor and imperfections of my religious services, my

listlessness in the duties of piety, my inattention to the truths of religion, and to the things which belong to my everlasting peace. Yet I bow before thee, the Father of spirits, under the cheering and encouraging conviction, that thou wilt approve sincerity, that thou hast pity on them that fear thee, and beholdest thy frail creatures with compassion.

May my lips be tuned to thy nobler praise; may my heart burn with a more pure and ardent devotion; may my ears be more open to instruction; and may my prejudices yield to the power of heavenly truth. Be merciful to my great infirmities, assist my weaknesses, and invigorate and strengthen every sentiment of piety and virtue, of which I am conscious. May it not be in vain that I have waited on thee, and have heard the word of the gospel. May devotion be with me not the employment of an hour or of a day only, but my habitual temper. May the doctrine of salvation be my daily study. May I love thy law, and may thy truth be my delightful meditation. May I build my best hopes on thy promises, and bind thy precepts to my heart. From the services of the past day may I derive new relish for truth and piety, new strength to my holy purposes, and in-

vigorated zeal in the christian course. May my faith become more firm, my sense of duty more extended and effectual, my hope more lively, my love of thee more fervent, my charity to my fellow men more kind and expanded, and my heart more pure and tranquil. Help me to return to the usual engagements of life, better disposed to fulfil its duties; better prepared to resist its temptations, and to support its trials. Help me to look forward beyond the services of thy house of prayer, and beyond the duties and scenes of daily life; and to raise my views, my ardent hopes and strong desires, to the future assembly of the righteous, and to the nobler worship of thy heavenly temple.

I now pour out my humble and ardent desires, that the homage and supplications offered to thee this day, may awaken and diffuse the spirit of piety: that the prayers of my fellow Christians for the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus, for the best welfare of our country, and for the comfort and deliverance of the afflicted, may be acceptable: and that the laws of righteousness which have been promulgated, may be universally obeyed; and the word of salvation which hath been preached, may be most cordially and thank-

fully embraced. May the ordinances of religion be duly improved, and the seed of the word produce a rich harvest. May grace, mercy, and peace rest on all who have bowed before thy throne. Defend me through the night from evil; and let thy favour and mercy, most gracious God, ever descend on all thy dependent creatures, and on me, a candidate for thy everlasting mercy in Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new and everlasting covenant. Amen.

FOR MONDAY MORNING.

GREAT and gracious God, the God of my life and the length of my days! I am ever under the notice of thine eye; I am ever sustained by thy supporting hand. The night bears testimony to thy watchful providence, securing me from evil; the day, as it is renewed, calleth upon me to repose my hope and trust in thee. I bow before thee with a thankful sense of the goodness, which, after the day sacred to devotion, hath invigorated my powers of body and mind, by refreshing sleep, for the returning duties of active life. I thank thee and praise thee for those words of truth and salvation, which enlighten the

mind with the principles of heavenly knowledge, and afford us precepts of righteousness to be the rules of conduct. I thank thee that I am called forth to the virtuous and useful services of this life, and animated to every duty by the hope of that eternal life which is thy gift in Jesus Christ.

May I enter on another day and another week, sensible of the nature and importance of that work which thou hast given me to do, both as an inhabitant of this world, and as designed for immortality. Enable me to fulfil all the duties of life faithfully and diligently, maintaining a conscience void of offence towards thee, my God, and towards all men. May I look to Jesus, my pattern, who hath set before me a bright example of diligence and zeal, in doing the work which thou gavest him to do, before the night of death closed the day of his ministry. May I learn of him to guard against the temptations which would divert me from a holy, benevolent, and upright course; or which would obstruct my progress in it. Thou, my heavenly Father, knowest the snares which beset me, and the dangers which threaten me: prepare me, O my God, to meet them; assist me to overcome them. In thee alone is my strength and my

help; and to thee I humbly and earnestly look up, for the wisdom and strength that may be sufficient for me.

Unknown and untried are many of the temptations to which I am daily exposed: may I enter on this day and on every day, with pious fear; may I be watchful and circumspect; may I proceed in every pursuit of life with modesty, prudence, and caution. Whatever occurrences, tending to ruffle and discompose my spirits, shall arise, may I possess my soul in patience. Under provocations from men, may I be able to preserve the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Amidst anxious cares, under the failure of my schemes, under worldly losses, and the disappointment of my hopes, may I maintain inward tranquillity and peace; remembering that all things are under the direction of unerring wisdom and paternal goodness. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in a joyful persuasion that thou, my heavenly Father, carest for me; and may that peace of thine which passeth all understanding, fill my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. May no prospect of advantage or gain, ever prevail with me to practise impositions, or to violate integrity, truth, and honour, in the transactions of

trade, in the ordinary labours of my station, or in any peculiar trials of sincerity and uprightness to which I may be led. If sinners entice me, if the manners and maxims of the world offer to pervert my ways, give me understanding to perceive their folly, and resolution to withstand their force. May no irregular working of my own thoughts, nor the violence of appetite, disturb the peace, or defile the purity, of my heart. Let no secresy betray me into any sin, for which my own reflections would reproach me; and which thou, who seest in secret, wilt condemn. In every moment of trial, possess my soul with those principles of faith which inspire fortitude and constancy, and overcome the world. In all my converse with others, and in the hours of relaxation, assist me to guard against those circumstances, which are apt to irritate the passions, or to corrupt the mind. Against whatever would raise undue anger, or lead to excess, may I carefully and religiously guard. May I study that decorum, that self-command, which will secure the purity and dignity of a deportment, worthy the Christian profession, and may I exercise the benevolence, candour, and kindness, which become him who hath imbibed the lessons of the wisdom that

is from above; the wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, and full of good fruits. May I ever act under a sense of thy presence with me; and be governed by an ardent desire of thy approbation. Thus may I pass through the ensnaring scenes of this world, without being ensnared by them; and meet the trying events of life, without making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Thus may I finish my course with joy, and lay hold of that crown of righteousness and life which our Lord, who hath overcome the world as our exemplar, will give to all them who love his appearance. Among them may all those be who are united to me by the endearing ties of blood and friendship. May christian principles guide them here, and make them blessed hereafter. Having been more than conquerors through him that loved us, may they and I be made partakers of the eternal salvation from temptation and danger, which is in Christ Jesus. Amen.

FOR MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and gracious, unchangeable and everlasting God, who hearest prayer! to thee should all flesh come, bowing before

thee, with sentiments of reverence, gratitude and trust. Thou hast a claim to the homage of all thy creatures, for thy dominion ruleth over all. Thou art entitled to the confidence of all dependent beings; for thy wisdom is unerring, and thy goodness endureth for ever. In the morning it is my duty and privilege to commit myself unto thee, through all the circumstances of the day. At night it is my consolation to repose myself in thy protection, through the defenceless hours of sleep. Thou hast preserved me, O Guardian of my life, through the past day. Thus far hast thou brought me, upheld me in being, supplied my wants, and ministered to my enjoyments. I praise thee, my Maker, for the faculties and powers by which I am rendered capable of knowing, loving, and serving thee; and of forming the habits, and enjoying the pleasures and hopes, of benevolence and devotion. Health, strength, and safety, food and raiment, friends and success, are, in every measure and degree, from thee; and to thee I offer my tribute of unfeigned praise, for the share I have in these blessings. With the warmest emotions of gratitude, I would praise thee for the assistance of thy gracious and merciful goodness in Jesus Christ; for the light,

aids, and privileges of the gospel; for sending Jesus Christ into the world, to redeem us from all iniquity; and for the hopes and prospects of a happy immortality, given us through him.

How can I sufficiently admire thy goodness! How can I worthily utter thy praise! Oh may my heart ascend to thee, in a pure and lively flame of devotion, with joyful acknowledgments and thanksgivings! Not with my lips only, not merely in the moments of devout retirement, may I own thy goodness; but by walking before thee, under the eye of men, in holiness and righteousness of life, may I praise and glorify thy name.

Forgive, O Lord, most merciful and gracious, every instance of forgetfulness of thee and of thy goodness, with which I am chargeable. It becometh me to confess with shame, that I have not rendered unto thee according to thy benefits; nor made a due improvement of my temporal or spiritual advantages and blessings. My hope of the forgiveness of whatever has been amiss or sinful through this day, in thought, word, or deed, is in the riches of thy mercy; for with thee there is plenteous redemption.

Endue me with wisdom, with serious thought, and with resolution of mind to re-

pent of every thing wrong or defective in my temper and conduct. Lead me to the more faithful discharge of all the duties which I owe to thee, my heavenly Father, to my own self, and my eternal interests, to my family, relatives, and fellow-creatures. May I labour to be what thou wouldst have me to be; and to do what thou wouldst have me to do. May I be so pious in heart; so upright in my dealings; so diligent in the services of my station; so contented with the allotments of thy providence; so meek and humble; so pure and holy in my manners, and even so blameless, that I may recommend and adorn the religion I profess, secure an interest in the salvation of the gospel, and be at last presented faultless before the presence of my Lord, with exceeding great joy, at his coming.

God of my life, whose eye is ever over me for good, I commit myself to thy care this night. Preserve me from every evil and danger. In the wakeful hours of darkness, may my meditation be of thee. In the morning may I lift up my heart to thee with gratitude and devotedness; and still may thy hand be with me. I rejoice to leave myself with thee, with whom I leave those who are dear to me,

the support and deliverance of the afflicted, the welfare of my country, and the salvation of all mankind. May the night of sorrow, of ignorance, of vice, and of superstition, soon pass away. May the sun of righteousness arise on all the earth with healing under his wings, diffusing light, consolation, and joy. May all who see the light, walk as children of the light and of the day. Let my prayer come before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the morning and evening sacrifice, acceptable through thy mercy in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY MORNING.

INFINITELY holy, blessed, and adorable Majesty of heaven and earth! At the opening of the morning, I would call upon my soul, and all that is within me, to praise thy name. I offer unto thee, my Preserver, my humble and hearty thanks, for guarding the slumbers of the night from evil; and that I behold the returning light in health and comfort, rejoicing in new proofs of thy goodness, and surrounded with a rich variety of blessings. With peculiar emotions of holy joy, I

magnify thy goodness for the ministry of Jesus Christ, who hath appeared to scatter the darkness of ignorance and error; to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works; and to establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace. For the counsels of mercy which were accomplished by his life, death, and resurrection; for the gracious and sanctifying design and efficacy of his gospel; to thee, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, be given the tribute of ardent and everlasting praise.

Affect my heart with a lively and abiding sense of this manifestation of thy goodness, by which thou hast called us to righteousness and virtue; and to the practice of righteousness, may I be wholly and daily devoted. May the precepts of the gospel effectually teach me to love thee, my God and Father, in the highest degree, to love my neighbour as myself, and to keep my own heart with holy diligence. Of thee, the only wise God, may I seek wisdom: may I fear thee above all, worship thee in spirit and in truth, and become more and more like unto thee in holiness, mercy, and goodness. May I meditate on the words, the actions, and the character of Jesus, my heavenly Master, so that I may feel the

energy of such contemplations in forming me to the design of his ministry. May the consideration of his miracles confirm my belief in his divine mission; and may the spirit and views with which he performed them, engage my imitation of him in the common actions of life. May his promises support my faith and animate my obedience. May his threatnings awaken my holy fears and deter me from all sin. May his example be ever before my eyes; and like him may I be undefiled and separate from sinners, meek and humble, ready to minister to others and to go about doing good, and set on doing thy will and seeking thy glory. As the disciple of a Saviour who died to redeem us from all iniquity, may I die unto sin: as the disciple of a risen Saviour, may I walk in all newness of life: as the disciple of an ascended Saviour, who hath entered into heaven, as our forerunner, may my conversation be in heaven: and animated by the hope of his second appearance, may I purify myself as he is pure; and when he who is our life shall appear, may I appear with him in glory. In all cases, and in all circumstances, in the church and in the world, at home and abroad, in private and in public, may I live and act on these principles. May

this day, and every day added to my life, be filled up by a truly christian conduct that will do honour to the gospel. With unfeigned grief may I reflect on the great difference which there is in many, many instances, between what I am, and what I ought to be, as the professor of the gospel and the heir of an eternal inheritance. Henceforth may I live and act more worthy my high and holy calling; and may I at length obtain an abundant entrance into the glorious and everlasting kingdom of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; according to the declarations of thy mercy by him. Amen.

FOR TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed Lord our God! Thou art greatly to be feared, and worthy to be had in the highest reverence by all those who draw nigh unto thee. Under an awful sense of the glories of thy nature and the majesty of thy kingdom, would I now humbly bow down and worship at thy footstool. Look mercifully upon me from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, and enable me to pour out my heart before thee, with that sincerity and truth which thou requirest in all those that approach thee.

Thou art the high and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, and art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. But though thou art high, thou hast respect unto the lowly: thou dwellest with him who is of a humble and contrite spirit; and hast declared that unto this man wilt thou look, even unto him that trembleth at thy word.

Enlighten my mind, O Lord, with the knowledge of thy will. Incline me to a dutiful and constant attention to all thy commandments. Awaken me faithfully to search my heart and to try my ways. Enable me to understand the errors of my life, that I may be truly humbled under a sense of my past transgressions, and be more watchful in time to come.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Let every sinful desire and affection be put far from me, and all my thoughts and purposes be brought into subjection to thine authority. In all my ways may I acknowledge thee, as the God whose I am, and whom it is alike my duty and my wisdom to serve. And impress on my soul such a conviction of the righteousness of thy precepts, the unspeakable obligations by which I am bound to obey thy

word, and thy great goodness to those who love thee, that I may ever be fervent in following thy pleasure, and run the way of thy commandments with great delight. Incline my heart, O Lord, to love thy statutes, and may I rejoice to keep them even unto the end.

May the love of Christ so constrain me, that I may live not to myself, but to him who died for us and rose again from the dead. Enable me so to discern the brightness of his example, the blessings of his gospel, and the inestimable value of that glory to which he came to raise unworthy creatures, that I may thankfully receive that great salvation which he hath set before us. Let the same mind which was in him, dwell in me also; that I may walk worthy of the vocation with which we are called, in all lowliness and long suffering, and in brotherly love. May the hope of that eternal life which he has promised to all his faithful followers, incite me to purify myself as he is pure; and so preserve me from all the corruptions which are in the world, that I may be sincere and without offence till the day of his coming. And oh grant that I may find mercy of the Lord on that day!

While I continue in this world, let thine

eye be over me for good; and so conduct me through the various changes of life, as thou seest will be most profitable for me. I rejoice that my times are in thy hands; and amidst all the darkness which hides future events from our sight, I would cheerfully commit myself, and all mine, to thine ever righteous and merciful disposal. Guard us, O thou compassionate Father, from every thing which may be truly evil to us; vouchsafe us every real blessing; permit no temptation to come upon us but what we shall be able to bear; preserve us from the snares of prosperity; prepare us for the shocks of adversity; and whatsoever sufferings may be allotted us, impart to us thy powerful support under them, and give us understanding rightly to improve them. Assist us dutifully to acquiesce in the most painful appointments of thy providence, satisfied that thou knowest in every possible case what is best for thy creatures; and though our trials should continue and be multiplied, help us to remain unshaken in our devotedness to thee, and willingly to endure all things, so that we may enjoy thy favour.—Enable us in every thing to give thanks. Let faith and patience have their perfect work, and may all the light

afflictions of this world work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.—Guide us, O Lord, in all our ways, fit us for all thy will, and let thy mercy be upon us according as we hope in thee.

So teach me, O thou Father of spirits, to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Through all the vicissitudes of this uncertain state, may I habitually look towards that great change to which I am continually hastening, and to that awful day of account which succeeds it.—Let the prospect of that great revelation of thy righteous judgment, excite the lively concern of my soul to be found always ready. Fix the sense of it, O gracious God, I entreat thee, deep in my own heart, and in the hearts of all connected with me. Grant that neither the cares, the pleasures, nor any of the concerns of this present world, may betray us into a forgetfulness of the things which belong to our peace, and cause that day to come upon us unawares: but may we be sober and watch unto prayer; that whenever we are called hence, our end may be full of peace and hope. And when all thy children shall be gathered into one glorious assembly, to inherit the kingdom prepared for them, may we be found in that

happy number and enter with them into the joy of our Lord.

To thy gracious care, O thou great Guardian of Israel, I commit myself this night. Preserve me in the defenceless hours of sleep from all evil; and may my wakeful hours be sanctified by a sense of thy presence, and be filled by innocent, useful, and holy thoughts and purposes. All I pray for in the name of my beloved and revered Saviour; and for myself, and for all mankind, I pray unto thee in his words:—Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O FATHER of lights, who hast said, if any man lack wisdom let him ask of thee, who givest to all men liberally and upbraidest not! unto thee do I present my humble and earnest supplication for that wisdom which is profitable to direct. Open my eyes, I beseech thee, to see where my true happiness lies: point out clearly the road that leads to it; and never suffer me to depart from it. Send forth thy light and thy truth; let them lead me, and bring me to that new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Guide me, O Lord, with thy

counsel, while here, and afterward receive me to glory.

O my God, how faint and imperfect are my views of thine infinite perfection and glory! how little do I feel of that adoration and praise, that love and confidence, which are indispensably due unto thee!—Though thou hast presented to my view the universal frame of nature, which is a standing monument, a perpetual remembrancer, of thy creating power, thy marvellous wisdom, and eternal godhead; though thou hast made me capable of contemplating the wondrous fabric of the heavens, whose august magnificence, immeasurable extent, and beneficial influences on this lower world, proclaim thy glory and thy benignity; yet how little do I think of thee, how little do I adore thee! Though thou hast placed me in a part of thy creation, where I see thine inexhaustible power and munificence perpetually employed in raising up and providing for innumerable families of thy creatures around me, how little do I praise thee! Though thou hast given me a bodily structure fearfully and wonderfully made, bearing the strongest marks of divine wisdom and kind intention in the contrivance of every part and member

of it; and though thou hast placed a noble inhabitant within, possessed of powers and properties which raise us far above the brutes which perish, and capable of endless improvement in knowledge and virtue; yet how little do I love thee! Nay, though thou hast favoured me with the knowledge of thy revelation, containing the clearest and most express discoveries of thy perfections, and of what adoration, praise, and confidence, are due to them, yet, alas! all these various and striking manifestations thou hast afforded me of thyself, make but feeble and transient impressions upon my heart. How manifest is the disorder of the powers of my soul! The transitory pleasures, riches, and honours of this vain world, employ my understanding, strike upon my imagination, and captivate my heart; while thy perfect excellence, thy boundless goodness, and eternal providence, are either entirely disregarded by me, or are thought upon with too much coldness and indifference. My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken thou me, O Lord, according to thy word.

O heavenly Father, Author of every good and perfect gift, rectify, I earnestly pray thee, all the disorders of my soul; restore all my

faculties to their true and worthiest employment. May it henceforth be my chief delight, to contemplate thee in all the discoveries thou hast made of thyself, in thy wondrous works, and in the revelation of thy will. Give me such clear and affecting views of thy supreme glory and excellence, as shall kindle that flame of love to thee in my breast, which shall never be extinguished, but burn stronger and stronger every day. Penetrate my heart with such a deep sense of all thy mercies to me, and of thy constant bounty to thy whole creation, as shall stir up all within me to bless and praise thy name for ever and ever. Establish my soul in such a firm persuasion of the infinite goodness and wisdom of thy universal and everlasting providence, as shall engage me to throw myself and all my great interests upon it, with a boundless confidence.—O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. He shall be kept in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

O thou Giver and Supporter of life! I would thankfully own thy continued goodness in the safety and rest of the past night; in the various sources of comfort to which thou hast this morning awakened me; and above all in

the lengthening out of the time which I am to improve for eternity. Oh let a solemn sense of thee, and of my accountableness to thee, influence me in all my ways! May it preserve me this day in the paths of truth and uprightness, of purity and love. Preserve me and all mine from all real evil; above all from sin the worst of evils. And may we be acceptable in thy sight, as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.—Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

AGAIN, O thou sole Source of life and blessedness, hast thou brought me in safety to the close of another day; and I would thankfully acknowledge thy preserving care and goodness. I am continually dependent on thee, and live from one moment to another solely as thou affordest the means of life. Thy mercies are new every morning; they are repeated every evening: great is thy faithfulness. I bless thee for the powers of my body, for the faculties of my mind, for the gift of speech, and for every agreeable circumstance of my being. I thank thee for my capacities for social, moral, and divine pleasures, and for all the comforts which I

enjoy under thy gracious providence. To thy goodness am I indebted for that degree of peace and tranquillity in which I live; and for every opportunity which we enjoy of being and doing good. All the happiness and all the usefulness of my life I owe to thee my God; and to thy name be all the praise.—Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation.

O my heavenly Father, thou hast ever treated me with the utmost tenderness and love. Thou hast fed and clothed me all my life long; and it is through help obtained from thee that I continue to this day. Though I have often forsaken thee the fountain of living waters, thou hast never forsaken me: thou hast regarded me with pity amidst all my weaknesses: thou hast beheld me with compassion amidst all my sins; and hast exercised great forbearance and long suffering goodness towards me.

O thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! I rejoice that thou art, through him, reconciling a sinful world unto thyself. I praise thee for the gospel of pardon and peace; and that thou hast confirmed it by such abundant testimonies, to establish our

faith. I thank thee for that love which thy Son manifested in submitting to death for us; for his holy precepts to direct our actions; for his glorious example to guide and encourage us; and for the hope of eternal life by his resurrection from the dead, to animate us in the performance of good works. I rejoice in the exceeding riches of thy grace; that thou hast exalted thy Son Jesus to be a Prince and a Saviour; and that through thy wise and merciful appointment, he is the author of eternal salvation to all those who believe and obey him.

O gracious God, may the holy and benevolent spirit of the gospel have a more complete possession of my heart, and more effectually govern my life. How little are my desires and dispositions as yet brought under its sanctifying restraint and guidance! Thou, Lord, knowest my thoughts, and seest all my wanderings, my defects, and my sins. I lament before thee my manifold transgressions. The appetites and passions of my mortal body, interrupt the exercise of my nobler affections, weaken the sense of what is heavenly and divine, and usurp that dominion which belongs to my soul. Under the tumultuous government of my passions how

much is my understanding darkened, my affections corrupted, and my inward tranquillity disturbed.

O thou righteous Judge of all the earth, who renderest to every man according to his works! when I take a calm and serious view of all the motions of my heart, and actions of my life, I must acknowledge with deep regret, that I find many things for which I am self-condemned, and which I cannot recall to my remembrance, without feeling the peace of my mind sensibly disturbed, my confidence in thee greatly damped, and the awful dread of thy displeasure strongly awakened.

O God, who hast the hearts of all men in thy hands, and turnest them whithersoever thou pleasest! establish thou that part of me which is immortal and divine, in its just supremacy: subject all my lower passions to its authority; and make me to enjoy that inward composure and serenity, which is always to be found under the gentle sway of reason and religion. Oh deliver me, I beseech thee, from all sinful desires and pursuits; and suffer no iniquity to have the dominion over me.

O thou who art the Father of the families of the whole earth! thou hast surrounded me

here in thy world, with my fellow-creatures, the children of thy family; but I must acknowledge before thee, that I have not only failed in those duties which we owe to thee our Heavenly Father, but also in those which I ought to have rendered to my fellow-creatures. Thou hast made me capable of exercising kind affections towards them, of rejoicing with them in their prosperity, of sympathizing with them in their adversity, and of performing kind offices to them in every state; but alas! how often have I failed in this part of my duty. My friendly affections are, at best, but too weak and limited, frequently interrupted, and sometimes overcome by the working of selfish passions. O great Father of all, who art love and dwellest in love! teach me to imitate thy perfect and universal goodness: enlarge my heart to embrace the whole human race: make me feel a perpetual flow of good will to all thy children around me: check the growth, yea kill the seeds, of all malice, envy, and ill will, in my bosom: raise me to that happy state in which I shall forget myself, and place my chief delight in spreading peace, joy, and happiness all around, to the utmost of my power. Let all the tender and generous af-

fections increase in strength, in fervour, and in extent, in my soul; till I become fit to be transplanted into that happy kingdom, where peace and concord, love and friendship, reign in full perfection for ever and ever.

Commending myself and all I peculiarly love, to thy protecting care this night, I conclude my prayers, for myself and for all mankind, in the words of my beloved Lord and Saviour :—Our Father, &c.

FOR THURSDAY MORNING.

O THOU that hearest prayer! unto thee shall all flesh come. Whenever thy creatures are disposed to bend the suppliant knee in thy presence, and to call upon thee in sincerity, thou art ready to hear them: whenever they are inclined to render thee thanks for thy many blessings, thou wilt accept of their praises: and when they are disposed to offer the sacrifices of humility and penitence, thou wilt look upon them with favour and mercy. Look down from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, and bless thy servant before thee.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, most holy Father, thou wilt not hear me; for thou

art of purer eyes than to behold sin. I am indeed a sinful creature. I cannot wash my hands in innocence, and thus encompass thine altars, O Lord of hosts. Yet with sincerity and uprightness of heart, would I desire to bow before thee, the most high and holy Lord God. Believing that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee, and with charity and good will towards all my brethren, I now present my supplications at the throne of thy heavenly grace.

But how shall a frail child of ignorance offer up his requests unto thee! Should I earnestly pray for constant health and prosperity, I might implore a curse instead of a blessing. Should I pray to be delivered from all affliction, I might desire thee to withhold from me, the most wholesome correction and the greatest mercies. Sensible of my own ignorance, and confiding in thy wisdom and goodness, O gracious God, I leave myself and all my concerns in thy hands. Yet permit me, with humble submission, to ask of thee my daily bread and whatever is convenient for life and godliness. Grant unto me, if it be thy blessed will, health of body and soundness of mind. Bestow upon me a contented and thankful heart.

May I possess the friendship and esteem of the wise and good; and make even my enemies to be at peace with me.

O my God, I come before thee as an ignorant creature, and pray that my mind may be enlightened with the knowledge of thy truth. As weak and insufficient for my own happiness, strengthen me with all might, aud be thou the portion of my heart. As a sinful creature, oh! do not condemn me; but speak peace and pardon to my soul through thy beloved Son, who died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. Encouraged by his gospel, may I constantly come to thy throne of grace, Heavenly Father, that I may find mercy to pardon and grace to help in every time of need.

Grant unto me, O thou God of all grace, that firm and lively faith in thy providence, and in the declarations of thy word, which may support me under all present trials, and deliver me from anxiety respecting what is future. Grant me that stedfast belief in those things which are not seen but eternal, which will render me superior to all the changes of this mortal life. Give me all peace and joy in believing. Endue me with that hope which purifies the heart, which is

an anchor of the soul sure and stedfast, and which maketh not ashamed at the hour of death. By my faith and hope may I glorify thee, O Lord, and have my conversation in heaven.

O Heavenly Father! may I ever maintain such a sense of my frailty, and of the temptations that surround me, as may render me watchful and sober. May I avoid all appearance of evil; and never cause thy good ways to be evil spoken of, through my misconduct or my folly. Endue me with holy resolution and heavenly fortitude, to resist the most powerful temptations, and to discharge the most difficult duties. May the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, effectually teach me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Whatsoever things are true, venerable, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, these may I habitually think of and practise.

And when I have done and suffered thy will here upon earth, with sincerity, though alas! with many imperfections; when I have finished my earthly course, and am drawing near to the gates of death; may no unrepented sins rise up to my remembrance, and set

themselves in array against me: and may my unallowed defects and imperfections, while they render me humble, deprive me not of peace and hope. May the cheering rays of thy mercy, O Lord, comfort my departing spirit; and may I have the testimony of my conscience witnessing in my behalf, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, I have had my conversation in the world. Whenever I die, may I die in the Lord; and be finally received to those mansions, where the sun shall no more go down, nor the moon withdraw its light; where the Lord shall be an everlasting light, and the days of mourning shall be ended.

Enable me this day, and every day, to live under the influence of these great prospects, and agreeably to these my supplications; and may I prove, in word, in deed, and in heart, to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O Lord God! I humbly adore thee, as a being possessed of every perfection, fitted to excite our admiration, to engage our love, to

encourage our confidence, and to inspire our devotion.

Thou, O God, art he, whose glory no eye can behold; whose majesty no thought can comprehend; whose power no force can resist; from whose presence no swiftness can fly; from whose knowledge no secret can be concealed; whose justice no art can evade; and whose goodness extendeth to every creature.

I rejoice to think of that infinite wisdom, which can never fail of discerning my true interests; and of that almighty power, which will ever be equal to my support and happiness. Amidst all the weaknesses, wants, and dangers, to which our frail nature is subject, I would repose myself in calm security under the shadow of thy wing.

But, O my God, may I never deceive myself with any presumptuous hopes of thy mercy, whilst destitute of those virtuous principles, and holy dispositions, which alone can render me acceptable in thy sight. Search me, O God, and try me; know thou my thoughts; and see if there be any evil way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting. Help me to keep my heart with all diligence, since out of it are the issues of life. Enable

me to order my words with discretion, that I offend not with my tongue. Impress my mind with such a deep sense of thy great and tremendous majesty, and constant inspection, as shall guard me against every irreverent use of thy holy name, and every violation of the laws of purity, kindness, truth, and sincerity.

In the whole of my conduct, may I be governed by the principles of our holy religion. May I tread closely in the steps of our blessed Lord. May the same holy, pure, humble, meek, patient, contented, submissive, spiritual, and heavenly temper, which was so conspicuous in him, prevail also in my bosom, and shine forth in the whole of my life.

Awaken, O Lord, in my breast, a due sense of the evil of sin, and of all its ruinous consequences, that I may avoid it as I would my most dangerous enemy. Help me to guard more especially against those sins which most easily beset me, and from which I am in the greatest danger.

Make me habitually bear in mind that awful season, which is fast approaching, when every disguise shall be stripped off, and the secrets of all hearts disclosed, before the

righteous Judge of the whole earth. May I not suffer the numberless privileges which I now enjoy, through my sinful neglect and abuse, to rise up in judgment against me, to cover me with shame, and to fill me with the painful stings of a self-reproaching heart.

O God, may I make it the height of my ambition, and my most solicitous concern through life, to be accepted at last by my Judge, and to have my faithful though imperfect services, owned and approved by him.

May this concern, deeply and continually felt, produce the happiest effects upon the whole of my conduct through life. May it render me diligent and watchful in guarding against temptation, and zealous and active in the performance of my duty; so that, when the Lord cometh, he may not surprise me unprepared; but find me qualified, by a previous life of diligence, faith, and patience, to enter on one of endless glory and happiness.

Graciously receive, O Heavenly Father, my thankful acknowledgments for the protection and comforts of the past day. Pardon my sins of commission or neglect. Be with me this night, and keep me from all evil. May my rest refresh and fit me for an active and cheerful performance of future du-

ties. And may I be every day improving in those good dispositions, which will fit me, whenever I am called out of this life, for the nobler services and enjoyments of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING

HOLY, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty! Thou art pure, and every word of thine is pure; thy law is holy, and thy commands are holy, just, and true. With all humility, under a sense of many and great deviations from purity and righteousness, would I lift up my heart to thee, in whose sight the heavens are not clean. Just and true are all thy ways, O thou King of saints. With clean hands, and a pure heart, may I raise my thoughts to thee; and in the whole of my conduct, through all the scenes and duties of daily life, may I be sincere and upright in thy sight.

Accept my unfeigned and fervent thanks, for protection and safety through the hours of darkness, and for recovery to the light and services of the day. May I esteem every day added to my life, as a valuable opportunity afforded to me for the attainment or

confirmation of holy and virtuous habits; and may it be the first concern of my mind, to practise universal righteousness, and to follow after it with diligence, and with a pious solicitude to be what thy law requires me to be.

I thank thee, that by the united lights of reason and scripture, thou hast taught me what is thy good, acceptable, and perfect will; that this is engraven on my heart, was exemplified with perfection and beauty in the character of Jesus Christ, is clearly and fully inculcated in his precepts, and is enforced by his gracious promise of eternal life, as the final reward of a patient continuance in well doing.

Through the day that now opens upon me, as instances of iniquity and as examples of sinful affections and practices will offer to my notice, may I preserve in my breast a reverential sense of thy purity and presence, to guard me against the seducing maxims and examples that may beset me. In the spirit of an habitual and serious piety, may I walk before thee, who art holy in thy ways; and learn, from a deep sense of thy purity, to be righteous in all mine. May I fail in no duty of filial obedience in every event; being patient and submissive in the day of adversity;

in the day of prosperity humble and thankful; and in all circumstances holding communion with thee, the Father of spirits, by the aspirations of devotion. May I fail in no duty to my fellow men; walking before my house with an upright heart; conciliating the affection of my domestics by condescension, cheerfulness, and kindness; neither rigorous in the services that I require, nor passionate under the light provocations of daily life; but candid and forbearing. In the transactions of business may integrity and uprightness preserve me, and render it safe to repose confidence in me. May truth govern all my words, and uprightness regulate all my dealings. May my manners, conduct, and temper, O God of love, be mild and benevolent; formed after the meekness and gentleness of Christ; compassionate to the afflicted; and forgiving to the injurious: and may I do good to all as I have opportunity and ability, and embrace in devout good wishes those whom I cannot in person serve and assist. May I fail in no duty to myself; watching the inward emotions of my heart with holy care; giving to every passion a right direction; and preserving every appetite within its proper bounds; maintaining the dominion of reason, conscience, and

the religious principle; guarding the purity and tranquillity of my mind; observing temperance and sobriety in all lawful indulgences; practising self-denial; and, in all cases, acting up to the dignity and hopes of a rational being, designed, through thy merciful benevolence in Jesus Christ, for immortality. To that immortality may I ever aspire with ardent and strong desires; looking not to the things which are seen and temporal, but to the things which are unseen and eternal; having my conversation in heaven. In making these holy acquisitions, may I spend this and every day; invited by the mercy declared and dispensed through Jesus Christ; and animated with the hope of a gracious acceptance with thee, the righteous Lord, who lovest righteousness, and with favour dost behold the upright. May universal righteousness reign in my heart and life; may it prevail in my house, and be pursued and practised by all mine: throughout the whole earth, may it extend its power and blessings; till the things of time and the kingdoms of this world shall pass away, and give place to those new heavens and new earth, wherein righteousness will dwell for ever. Accept my holy, pious breathings, O God most holy, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down; and art acquainted with all my ways: for there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. If I say surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me: yea the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.—*Psalm* 139.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him: for all that is in the world,—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,—is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.—1 *John* ii. 15-17.

O GOD, most holy, just, and good, all-wise, and all-powerful, the great and gracious Being on whom I depend, now and for ever! I desire to approach thee, this evening, in

the offering of praise and prayer, with filial love, yet with profound reverence; under a deep sense of thy infinite perfections, and of my own unworthiness and sinfulness. In these solemn moments of secret communion with thee, grant unto me the spirit of piety and supplication. May my whole soul be under the impressive influence of the conviction, that thou art every where present, in knowledge and in power; that thou art acquainted with the inmost recesses of my heart: and may my thoughts and desires be so engaged in the exercise of this duty and privilege, that the sense of God in my soul may be invigorated, my devout affections cherished, and the principle of holy obedience extended and confirmed; and that I may carry from it, greater openness of heart, greater singleness of purpose, greater solicitude to avoid the beginnings and even the appearance of evil; more humblemindedness; more kindly affection and genuine love to all connected with me; more watchful earnestness to walk in the footsteps of my Saviour, to imbibe and live in his spirit, and to promote the interests of his gospel; more effectual resolution to listen to the directions of conscience, to shun temptation from within and

from without, and to keep myself unspotted from the world. Oh grant thy blessing on all those desires which I trust are now uppermost in my heart, to exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards man; to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts; and in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with worldly wisdom, but by thy grace, to have my conversation in the world!

Made by thee, O Father of my spirit, to live for ever, oh that I may, as my first and chief concern, endeavour to live as a child of immortality, and seek those things which are unseen and eternal! Blessed be thy name for the mission and resurrection of Christ Jesus, by whom death has been disarmed of its power, and life and immortality have been brought to life. Grant that I may learn to walk habitually by faith in unseen realities, and not by sight, governed by worldly desires, and guided by worldly maxims and principles. Blessed be thy name for those prospects and that guidance, by which, as our Saviour hath shewn us by his own example, we may overcome the world. How can I sufficiently adore thee, or be sufficiently thankful, for those heavenly instructions

which direct our steps, with clearness and security, in the peaceful paths of duty here, towards a state of perfect righteousness and blessedness; where all that is imperfect shall be done away; where there shall be light without a cloud; where there shall be no weariness or deadness in the exercise of devotion; where all shall be purity and love; where sin and all that leads to sin shall be no more; where thou shalt wipe away every tear from every eye; and where there shall be no more fear lest we should come short of thy mercy, and be banished from thy gracious presence into the outer darkness.

And blessed be thy name, also, O holy and righteous Judge eternal, for the solemn warnings of thy word, respecting the present and everlasting consequences of sin; and that, by the awful display of the wrath to come, thou presentest to thy frail and erring children, those fears which are fitted to alarm the soul, to awaken it from the torpor of sloth and self-indulgence, to check its wanderings, to strengthen its resolution, to cherish its sense of accountableness, and to urge it on in a diligent and heartfelt preparation for the decisive day. In the uncertainty of my abode here, from one day to another, I earnestly

pray that the doom of the impenitent, the careless, the selfish, the impure, the deceitful, the unjust, and the ungodly, may excite my effectual earnest solicitude to be found always ready. Grant, O God, that the threatenings of thy word may co-operate with its blessed promises, to induce me, with faithful earnestness, to search my heart, and to try my ways; to be sober and to watch unto prayer; and to shun the broad path that leadeth to destruction.

In thy presence, O most righteous yet gracious Being, would I examine into the state of my soul; and consider now, whether, according to the declarations of my final Judge, I may reasonably hope for acceptance when I shall stand before his tribunal. Grant me a sincere desire to learn my real condition; and, while yet the day of probation is lengthened out, may I seek for mercy to pardon, and grace to help in time of need.

O thou before whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret can be hidden! may I never deceive myself with unfounded expectations, or entertain a delusive hope of thy mercy, while any sin remains unrepented; or while I am conscious that I am not truly desirous to shun every

evil way, to avoid all presumptuous transgression, to mortify every sinful inclination, to avoid the sources of temptation, to humble high thoughts of myself, and to close in, faithfully and perseveringly, with the conditions of pardon and acceptance.

On a solemn review of my past life, how little do I perceive on which my eye can dwell, without discerning great cause for self-condemnation.* Too often have I done what I ought not to have done; and left undone what I ought to have done. My conscience beareth witness to numberless instances in which I have been negligent in the work thou hast given me to do: in which my motives have been derived from earth and sense, and my actions guided by them, to the partial or total forgetfulness of things to come: in which

* If any who employ these aids in their devotions, should find expressions in this paragraph, or in other parts of this volume, beyond the actual state of their convictions, they are solicited to alter them, so as to make them fully accord with their own wants, and with their own sense of imperfection and sin; and especially to dwell on those particulars which suit most closely the plague of their own hearts. At the same time, it may, in all cases, deserve their consideration, whether greater self-knowledge would not show that the expressions which at first sight seem too strong, are, in reality, strictly suitable to their spiritual condition and necessities.

I have failed in my duty to thee; restraining prayer before thee; repining at thy providence; or neglecting to seek for the wisdom which is profitable to direct, and to walk humbly with thee, under the guidance of thy known will: in which I have failed in my duty to my fellow-creatures, in the various relations of domestic and social life; have been inconsiderate of their rights, their claims on my exertions, on my forbearance, and my charity; have been drawn aside from the strict path of truth and equity; indulged in excessive anger, in bitterness of spirit, in haughty, unkind, envious, censorious or unforgiving dispositions; and even admitted hatred or malice into my heart: in which I have failed in my duty to myself; or been neglectful in working out my own salvation; not maintaining the purity of heart, the sobriety, chastity, and moderation, the meekness and peaceableness, the humility and self-subjection, the fortitude and uprightness, which that Master requires from us, who was himself lowly in heart, who did no sin, who pleased not himself, who was holy, harmless, and undefiled, and who at last was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, that he might deliver men from the guilt, the power, and the punishment of sin.

My own heart, O God, condemneth me; and thou art greater than the heart, and knowest all things. But in a humbling sense of weakness, imperfection, and sin, how great is thy mercy which encourages me still to believe, that if the principle of godly fear is fixed in my soul, thou viewest me with the pity of a Father. Thou knowest our frame, thou remember est that we are but dust: thou wilt grant thy aid to thy frail and ignorant offspring, who sincerely seek thy grace: and when they wander from the paths of peace and duty, the broken and the contrite heart, O God, thou will not despise. Blessed be thy name, that, through thy tender mercy, the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast set forth Christ Jesus as a mercy seat; that in him we have redemption, through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins; and that, having been made perfect through sufferings, he became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Grant, O merciful God, that I may share in the rich blessings of the covenant of love and grace which thou hast made through him

with thy sinful creatures, by complying, faithfully and perseveringly, with the terms of pardon and peace. May I keep his example steadily in view; and in the various intercourses and connexions of life, in the hours of solitude, and in the government of my own heart, may I be habitually influenced by his precepts and principles, under the solemn conviction that thou, God, seest me.—With composure of soul, collected judgment, and prudent forethought, may I every day go forth to the duties and events of life; fortified by communion with thee; and so impressed with a sense of my dependence upon thee and accountableness to thee, that I may be in thy fear all the day long. And when the hour of retirement from the concerns of active life again returns, grant me a disposition to review the course I have trod, to examine into my motives, to bless thee for aids improved, to mourn over my failures, to repent of my transgressions, and to seek anew for pardon and an increase of divine strength and wisdom.

Now, and as each day closes, would I commend myself, and all I love, to the care of thy good providence. May peace and holiness attend our hours of rest. If it be thy good will, grant us the refreshment of undisturbed

sleep. If we awake again to the light and comforts of life, may our awaking thoughts be directed to thee, as our God and Father: and may we be enabled to commend ourselves, and all our interests, unreservedly to thee; assured that thou wilt make all things work together for good to those who love thee.

To thee, the Father of all the families of the earth, I humbly commend the interests of all my brethren of mankind: and as the substance of all my desires, I pray for them and for myself, in the words of him, whom thou hast made the common Lord and Saviour of all:—Our Father, &c.

FOR SATURDAY MORNING.

O God, my Heavenly Father, thou art present with us at all times and in all places. At the return of the day, I look up unto thee with humble and grateful devotion, as to that gracious Being who hath been present with me through the hours of darkness, and whose presence will encompass my paths through all the scenes of the day on which I have now entered. It is a solemn but a joyful thought, that thou, O God, art ever with me. The darkness hideth not from thee, but the night

shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. I close my eyes at night, in the consolatory belief that thou seest me when its curtains are drawn around me, and that thou wilt watch over my slumbers. I open my eyes in the morning, under the conviction that thou art still with me, acquainted with mine uprising, and graciously condescending to hear the morning prayer of gratitude and trust. Under a serious persuasion that it is impossible for me to subsist without thy supporting hand, or to be happy without the daily communications of good from thee, I rejoice that thou art present with me to lend thy supporting hand, and to bestow from thy fulness the blessings I want.

Thou fillest immensity. Thine eyes are in every place. All the thoughts and purposes of the human heart are open to thy view; and I, thy humble dependent, can be in no circumstances through the day now before me, in which thou, O God, wilt not surround my path. May I carry the conviction of this truth about with me through all the hours of the day. Wherever I am, and in whatever I am engaged, may I remember that thou seest me.

May I live under a constant sense of my necessary dependence upon thee, and of my

numberless obligations to thee,—obligations renewed by every breath I draw, and by every blessing I receive from thy liberal hands. My days and my hours, as they return and follow one another in quick succession, afford new occasions to meditate on thy unwearied tenderness and care. I would review the past instances of thy goodness, O my almighty Guardian and ever present Friend, with gratitude; I would anticipate the future manifestations of thy presence, which is the presence of unfailing and universal love, with hope and gladness. I rejoice in it as in the presence of that gracious and merciful Being, who is the God and Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and bless thee that thou hast invited us to draw near to thy throne in full assurance of faith, that thou art ever nigh to hear our prayers and to assist our weaknesses.

May this faith encourage me to every duty, and fortify me to meet every trial. May I recollect, under all circumstances, with the mingled emotions of reverence, confidence, and joy, that thou art nigh to bestow that wisdom which is profitable to direct; to make perfect thy strength in my weakness; to lead me in a plain path; to prosper my lawful and useful undertakings; and to preserve me from

temptation. May I see thy hand in every event; acknowledge thy providence acting every where, and in all that taketh place; set thee, the Lord, always before me; and be in thy fear through all the day. When I am allured by temptation, may I remember that thou, who art of purer eyes than to behold inquity, and who art my judge, seest me. In the hour of solitude, may I consider that I am not alone; that thou, my Father and my God, art with me. Amidst the busy crowd, in the active scenes of life, may my heart frequently withdraw its attention from the objects about me, and converse with thee, who knowest my inward thoughts. Through every moment of the ensuing day, may thy precepts guide me, thy fear controul me, thy love fill me with joy, and thy providence be my refuge and trust. Though every day, may I be with thee; and when flesh and heart shall fail me, be thou, my God, the strength of my heart; and be my portion for ever in that world, where thy presence will create fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore, to all who shall obtain thy mercy unto eternal life, thy gift in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.—Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. They are indeed too numerous for me to remember, and too countless, O thou Source of all good, to reckon up before thee. I cannot worthily acknowledge thy great goodness; nor can I shew forth all thy praise. I thank thee for all the blessings of my past life; and now more especially for the mercies of the past week. While many of my fellow-creatures have been called out of time into eternity, thou hast preserved my soul from death. In a state of dangers and afflictions, thou hast, in a great measure, kept mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. Every morning and evening have brought with them their successive comforts. Thou hast crowned my days with loving kindness; and I have spent my nights in safety, because thou hast watched over me. I thank thee if thou hast preserved me from those transgressions which would have dishonoured my profession, and have filled me with shame and grief: and, if thou hast enabled me to perform the duties of life with credit to myself, with usefulness to others, and to the honour of thy holy name, it is by thy grace that I am what I am.

I praise thee, Heavenly Father, that whilst inferior creatures partake of thy bounty, but are incapable of feeling gratitude towards thee, thou hast enabled me to look upon thee as the Author of my mercies, and to thank thee for them. Most ardently do I praise thee, if, with all thine other benefits, thou hast bestowed upon me this great blessing, a heart to feel, to acknowledge, and to improve thy great goodness. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God, how great is the sum of them! Great are my obligations unto thee, for that satisfaction and comfort which arise from believing in thy wise and righteous government, in thy kind providence, and in the precious promises of thy word. In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul.

O thou whose goodness surpasses all praise and all thought! thy blessings are not fleeting like my days: they are not confined within the limits of this life: they are lasting as my existence, and endure for ever. Blessed be thy name, thou hast made me immortal, and granted me the hope of eternal life through thy beloved Son. By his gospel thou hast directed me in the way to heaven; and therein thou hast promised pardon to the penitent,

strength to the weak, and life to the dead.—Faint is my gratitude, Heavenly Father, compared with thy rich mercy; and feeble my accents of thanksgiving. Oh may I show forth thy praise, not with my lips only, but by my life; and influenced by thy mercies, and under an awful respect unto thy threatnings, may I devote myself more unreservedly to thy service, and walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days.

While I humbly own thy goodness, and express my desires to live according to my obligations, as thy offspring and the disciple of Christ, I cannot look back on my past life, without perceiving abundant cause for deep contrition and self-abasement. Oh that my soul may be sincerely humbled under a sense of my many transgressions and neglects of duty; under the recollection of resolutions unfulfilled, of warnings unheeded, of talents unimproved! Oh that the godly sorrow may be in my heart which will work repentance unto salvation! I pray not only for mercy to pardon my sins, but for strength to enable me to subdue them, and for grace to help in the day of temptation. Establish me, I pray thee, in a holy disposition, that I may be kept in thy favour and love, by a persevering con-

tinuance in well-doing. Sanctify my understanding, that I may rightly conceive thy holy truths and fully apprehend them. Sanctify my will, that it may bend itself to thy blessed will in all things. Sanctify my affections, that I may set my heart upon thee, and desire nothing in comparison with thee. Sanctify my passions, that they may be purified from all defilement of the flesh and the spirit. Possess me with such a lively hope of those good things which thou hast promised to the faithful disciples of Christ in the life to come, as may make me active and zealous stedfast and immoveable, always abounding in every good word and work, and perfecting holiness in thy fear. May Christ, the hope of glory, be formed in me, in all humility and meekness, in patience, purity, and righteousness; so that the life I live in the flesh, may be by faith in the Son of God.

To thy gracious protection, O my God, I commend myself this night. If it be thy will, grant me sound and refreshing rest; such as will fit me for the services and duties of the morrow. May my hours of sleep be free from disquieting thoughts and sinful imaginations; and in my wakeful hours, may I realize thy presence, and feel its influence

in purity, love, and peace. If thou seest fit to preserve me to the light and comforts of another morning, let my first thoughts be directed to thee; and may thy gracious influence so blend with and guide my purposes and dispositions, that I may begin the day with thee, and spend it in thy fear and in the spirit of the gospel.

All I supplicate in the name of Jesus Christ, my honoured Lord and Saviour: and in his words, I pray unto thee for myself and all connected with me, and for all mankind: —Our Father, &c.

OBSERVATIONS.

To the less experienced, the following Remarks may be of service.

In the employment of the foregoing Prayers, it may be found most satisfactory for each individual to select a series for constant use: in which case, however, it will be desirable to employ the rest not unfrequently.

The Prayer in the Second Week for Friday Evening, is, perhaps, less suited than others for stated use; and it will by many be deemed too long. This last defect may be rectified by occasionally omitting parts: and as the Prayer is adapted to a peculiar state of mind, (which,

however, should often recur,) it may be best to keep it in view to be employed when appropriate. It might have been placed among the Occasional Prayers; but to have it statedly in view, seemed preferable.

Several of the Prayers which are designed for the Morning, may, without inconvenience, be employed, with slight alteration, in the Evening; and *vice versâ*. This is mentioned, because some who use these Prayers, may choose to employ them only one part of the day.

There are those who may find it not unadvisable to fix on stated times, for some particular subject of devotion; especially for the purposes of Intercessory Prayer. Custom will assist to produce the recurrence of the desired trains of thought, at the usual times; and that which might otherwise be omitted, will thus be beneficially employed, and the scope of devotion extended.

But, in all cases, those who employ the aids which this volume may afford them, are solicitously urged, while they aim to raise and extend their devout affections, to expect the blessing of Him who seeth in secret, only so far as their thoughts and desires accompany the expressions they employ. No expressions should be employed beyond the state to which the mind can be carried at the time.

To the information given in the Preface respecting the sources from which the Supplement is derived, may here be added, that, among the Prayers for a Second Week, some have been mainly derived from Dr. LEECHMAN, whose discourses on Prayer, contained in the first volume of his Sermons, and also published separately, are peculiarly valuable. Several of the discourses in the second volume, especially intended for the intelligent Young, (having been delivered in the College Chapel at Glasgow, of which University Dr. LEECHMAN was Principal,) are

of inestimable value; and it might be of great service to publish them in a separate volume, with some account of the good man's life prefixed, which would make his instructions still more impressive.

Among the Occasional Prayers and Collects, will be found several drawn up by the great Dr. Hartley, for his own private use. These will be distinguished by *Æt.*—denoting the age at which he composed them. They are derived from his *Prayers and Religious Meditations*, (affixed to the later editions of the *Observations on Man*, and also published separately.) Of these the Editor justly says, "They are conceived in the spirit of genuine, rational, and fervent piety; and expressed in language simple, forcible, and affecting: they discover a mind deeply impressed with a belief in Christianity, its unadulterated doctrines, and awful sanctions; and a heart entirely imbued with the holy unction of the gospel: they exhibit the understanding and affections proceeding, in beautiful union, towards the attainment of their best object and greatest good—that 'peace of God which passeth all understanding.'"

Besides this source, and those which are indicated in the Preface, the remaining part of this volume will contain select offices from BAXTER, HENRY, Dr. ADAMS, Dr. DODDRIDGE, Dr. ENFIELD, ZOLLIKOFFER, and Mr. JOHN KENRICK; with such others as may be found suitable to the object of the selection.

The Prayer for Thursday Evening, in the Second Week, is derived from the Exeter Collection of Prayers for Families; and it may be observed here, that many of the Prayers in this volume may be adapted to Family Prayer, by slight alterations which wll readily occur to the person who conducts that important means of promoting family religion.

9th May, 1828.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

AND

COLLECTS.

SHORT PRAYERS FOR MORNING AND EVENING.

For the Morning.

O LORD, to whom I owe my life and every comfort of it! I most earnestly pray that I may live always mindful of my dependence upon thee, and of the mercies I have received from thee. May I consider that no action, word, or thought, of mine, is unknown to thee; and therefore be at all times careful to think, to speak, and to do, what is right. As I hope to be eternally happy, may I seriously attend to those duties which must qualify me for being so. Grant that I may keep it always uppermost in my thoughts, that thy favour is to be obtained only by the holiness of my life, and by doing in it all the good in my power. Let it be ever in my heart to do all kind offices, and to promote peace and happiness among my neighbours. May I be true and faithful to all my engagements; and especially to the promises and vows of obedience made to thee. May I be careful to govern my passions, to correct in myself every vicious in-

numberless obligations to thee,—obligations renewed by every breath I draw, and by every blessing I receive from thy liberal hands. My days and my hours, as they return and follow one another in quick succession, afford new occasions to meditate on thy unwearied tenderness and care. I would review the past instances of thy goodness, O my almighty Guardian and ever present Friend, with gratitude; I would anticipate the future manifestations of thy presence, which is the presence of unfailing and universal love, with hope and gladness. I rejoice in it as in the presence of that gracious and merciful Being, who is the God and Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and bless thee that thou hast invited us to draw near to thy throne in full assurance of faith, that thou art ever nigh to hear our prayers and to assist our weaknesses.

May this faith encourage me to every duty, and fortify me to meet every trial. May I recollect, under all circumstances, with the mingled emotions of reverence, confidence, and joy, that thou art nigh to bestow that wisdom which is profitable to direct; to make perfect thy strength in my weakness; to lead me in a plain path; to prosper my lawful and useful undertakings; and to preserve me from

temptation. May I see thy hand in every event; acknowledge thy providence acting every where, and in all that taketh place; set thee, the Lord, always before me; and be in thy fear through all the day. When I am allured by temptation, may I remember that thou, who art of purer eyes than to behold inquity, and who art my judge, seest me. In the hour of solitude, may I consider that I am not alone; that thou, my Father and my God, art with me. Amidst the busy crowd, in the active scenes of life, may my heart frequently withdraw its attention from the objects about me, and converse with thee, who knowest my inward thoughts. Through every moment of the ensuing day, may thy precepts guide me, thy fear controul me, thy love fill me with joy, and thy providence be my refuge and trust. Though every day, may I be with thee; and when flesh and heart shall fail me, be thou, my God, the strength of my heart; and be my portion for ever in that world, where thy presence will create fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore, to all who shall obtain thy mercy unto eternal life, thy gift in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.—Our Father, &c.

Various are the duties which lie before me: many are the snares which beset me: severe may be the trials to which I may be called. My wisdom is but ignorance: my strength is but weakness: while every thing, O my God, my comfort and usefulness here, and my happiness hereafter, depend upon my right conduct. Known unto thee are my dangers and difficulties: be thou my present and daily help. May my devotions be humble, sincere, and earnest. May uprightness and integrity preserve me; and my worldly business be pursued under a sense of thy authority and presence, and with a regard to thy glory and acceptance. In the most unbended moments, may I never fall into sin and folly. May I always be able to maintain composure and seriousness of mind, and purity of character. In the management of my calling, may I be discreet and just. In the hours of relaxation, may I have wisdom to follow manly and rational amusements only; and possess resolution to indulge only in pleasures that are sober and innocent. May my whole deportment be virtuous and amiable; and my words be guided by truth and kindness. May my mind be meek and humble; and my heart benevolent, compassionate, and generous. Endue me with fortitude to resist every temptation. Warm my breast, in the enjoyment of every blessing, with devout gratitude; and assist me to bear affliction with patience and submission. Suffer not my heart to indulge any sinful passion, or to entertain any evil thoughts. Help me to look forward to the end of life, and prepare for it. Assist me to sow the

I praise thee, Heavenly Father, that whilst inferior creatures partake of thy bounty, but are incapable of feeling gratitude towards thee, thou hast enabled me to look upon thee as the Author of my mercies, and to thank thee for them. Most ardently do I praise thee, if, with all thine other benefits, thou hast bestowed upon me this great blessing, a heart to feel, to acknowledge, and to improve thy great goodness. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God, how great is the sum of them! Great are my obligations unto thee, for that satisfaction and comfort which arise from believing in thy wise and righteous government, in thy kind providence, and in the precious promises of thy word. In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul.

O thou whose goodness surpasses all praise and all thought! thy blessings are not fleeting like my days: they are not confined within the limits of this life: they are lasting as my existence, and endure for ever. Blessed be thy name, thou hast made me immortal, and granted me the hope of eternal life through thy beloved Son. By his gospel thou hast directed me in the way to heaven; and therein thou hast promised pardon to the penitent,

that I may endeavour more and more continually to promote thy glory, the good of mankind, and the salvation of my own soul. To thy gracious protection do I commend myself, my relations, and friends, through this night. Refresh my body, I beseech thee with necessary sleep: but more especially preserve my soul from all things that may tend to corrupt it. In the depth of darkness, during my wakeful hours, cause me to remember, that in power and knowledge thou must be ever present; and that, to thy sight, every thought, word, and deed of mankind must always be open. Oh let the consciousness of thy omnipresence dwell so deeply and constantly on my mind, that no temptations may prevail on me to do evil: and fill me with such a love of thy goodness and dread of thy displeasure, that, at all times and in all places, whether in secret retirement or public intercourse, whether in the darkness of night or the light of day, I may so endeavour to keep thy holy commandments, as finally, after this life, to partake of immortal happiness, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; who died for our sins, and was raised for our justification; and before whose judgment seat, I, and all men, must one day stand. In his name and words I farther call upon thee, for myself and all mankind:—Our Father, &c.

For Trust in God's Mercy and Love, and for Spiritual Improvement.

O THOU, whose mercy is over all thy works! teach me that perfect love of thee which casteth out fear:

let me be truly sensible of the heinousness of my transgressions, and yet still see that thy goodness infinitely exceeds my guilt. Let no superstitious fears, or doubts of the discoveries which thou hast made of thyself, sully my devotions; or lessen that implicit confidence in thee, which is the comfort and support of my life. Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Thou hast given me sufficient evidence, both in thy word and works, that no evil can approach me, except such as my own wilfulness brings upon me. Oh make me always to carry upon my mind the strongest conviction of this great truth, that so it may beget in me, on the one hand, a constant serenity and cheerfulness; and, on the other, all possible humility, watchfulness, and earnest application to thee, for the protection of thy holy spirit. I plainly see, that, at the same time that I am foolishly scrupulous in trifles, I am very apt to neglect the weighty matters of thy law: oh do thou deliver me from the spirit of fear; and grant me that of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Grant me an upright intention in all that I do; and true wisdom, which may enable me to see what is fittest to be done; and then let me rest satisfied that thou wilt accept of my sincere though weak endeavours, through Jesus Christ. Above all things, let no worldly pleasure, honour, or profit, have any share in my affections; let my treasure be in heaven, and my heart be fixed where true joys are to be found. Let me learn, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content; to fear no evil but sin;

and in all my perplexities and distresses to look up to thee for relief, and that with the most absolute submission and exalted gratitude. Let me consider all adversity, as well as prosperity, as equally flowing from the kindness of thee, my heavenly Father; and let all thy dispensations accelerate my progress towards thee, towards the attainment of that peace which the world can neither give or take away. Hear me, Almighty and most Merciful God, who never failest them that seek thee; according to thy mercy in Christ Jesus, our honoured Lord and Saviour:—Amen.

1734. *Ætat.* 29.

Respecting the Search after Truth, and Religious Zeal.

O ETERNAL, infinite, and incomprehensible Being, of whom, and through whom, are all things! make me to regard nothing but in a due subordination to thee: let me devote myself entirely to thy service, and be ever employed in promoting that purity, perfection, and happiness, of myself and others, which it is thy great will that we should arrive at. Open mine eyes, that I may see the wonderful things of thy word and works; and then so cleanse my heart from all evil and corrupt affections, that I may not only know thy will, but also do it, and ever ascend from the creature to thee, the Creator. Let no passion or prejudice, no fondness for or opinion of myself, no affectation of singularity or no-

velty, mislead me in my search after truth. Let me receive thy kingdom as a little child; submit myself to my great Lord and Master, Christ; and in imitation of him, seek thy glory, not my own, and become the servant of all. Let me be swift to hear, and slow to speak; deeply sensible of my own blindness in heavenly things; and ready to acknowledge and correct my errors. Keep me from all arrogance, ostentation, and immoderate, indiscreet warmth: grant me that true religious zeal which is according to knowledge: let me learn in meekness to instruct them that oppose; and do thou graciously bless my endeavours, and give me a mouth and wisdom, which all thy adversaries may not be able to gainsay or resist. But especially let me ever remember that knowledge puffeth up, whilst charity edifieth, and is alone the end of the commandment: and let all my hopes and fears, all my studies, prayers, and endeavours, tend ever to my improvement in justice and charity; in meekness, patience, and humility; in temperance, soberness, and chastity; in absolute submission to thee, indifference to this world, and the earnest expectation of a better; in the serenity and cheerfulness of innocence and integrity; and to sum up all blessings in one, in the true love of thee, my Guide and Guardian, my Father, Friend, and God. Hear me, O thou who makest all things work together for the good of them that love thee, through Jesus Christ.

1734. *Ætat.* 29.

For the Divine Aid and Blessing in the Exercise of Parental Duty.

O Heavenly Father, in whom I live, and move, and have my being; who hast surrounded me with innumerable blessings, and given me the inestimable hope of far greater hereafter; and who makest even the miseries which I, by my folly, bring upon myself, subservient to my good! let me learn of thee, since I am in myself evil, to give good gifts unto my children. Let me train them up early in the way they should go, and be more solicitous to form their minds to a habit of true rational piety and virtue, than about all other things whatsoever. Let me look upon all other things as of no real value, except as they contribute to this great end; and let not the false glories of learning, wit, honour, or riches, mislead me in my endeavours for their true happiness. Let no passion or peevishness sully my concern for their welfare, or make my labours less effectual to their good; neither let any foolish fondness prevent me from giving them that correction which is proper for them: make me to love them with the most tender and sincere affection; ever to desire, pray for, and promote their happiness here and hereafter; and yet to resign them, myself, and all that I have, into thy hands, with all submission, confidence, and thankfulness, Of thee, therefore, I implore for them all Christian graces and virtues, a teachable disposition, and such a share of understanding, health, and other temporal good things,

as thou in thy infinite wisdom shalt think fit for them. Do thou grant success to my endeavours; and if it be agreeable to thy kind providence over me and mine, let me live to see the good effects of these. And as I learn from thee to perform the duties of a father, so let me learn from my children to become thy son, and to love and obey thee with my whole heart. Let my imperfect benevolence towards them convince me that I have nothing to fear, and ought to hope for every thing from thee: that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, what things thou hast prepared for those that love thee. Hear me, most merciful God, through thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the adoption of sons, and cry, Abba, Father.

Ætat. 29.

In the Conjugal Relation.

O God, by whose goodness alone it is that I am joined to one so fitted to promote my happiness! teach me to love her with all sincerity, tenderness, affection, and purity; to seek her welfare with all pleasure and gratitude; and in every thing to regard her as myself. Bless us with all the blessings of this life, which thou seest fit for us, and teach us to assist each other in our preparation for a better. Make us zealous to improve each other's virtues, and careful and affectionate in admonishing each other upon all occasions of, or tendencies to, error or vice. Teach us to perform all the duties of our

life and station, with prudence, uprightness, and true religion; to govern our family with all kindness, and benevolent regard to every one in it; and especially to be diligent in the education of those children with which thou shalt bless us: keep us from being over careful to provide for them the things of this world; and let our chief study be, to form their minds to real piety and virtue, and to instil into them the knowledge of Christ and him crucified. Thou hast so ordered the relations of life, as to beget in us that love of our neighbour and of thee, in which alone true happiness consists; teach us therefore thus to ascend unto perfection,—unto that state in which we shall become members of Christ and of each other, and thou, O God, be all in all. Let not the transient joys of this world engage our affections: make us dead to pleasure, honour, and profit; and let us so use the blessings which thou hast conferred upon us here, as to prepare us for solid happiness hereafter. It is thine undeserved goodness alone to which we are indebted for all the comforts and conveniences of this life, in so desirable a degree; for the health of our bodies and minds; and for the outward means of gratifying our wants. In all these things we entirely resign up ourselves to thine infallible wisdom, and undoubted goodness; and neither ask for riches, nor health, nor life itself, but for that alone which will make us most acceptable unto thee. Let thy blessing attend us and ours, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy laws, and in the works

of thy commandments. Let our conversation be in heaven; and let the attainment of a happy futurity be the grand design and employment of our lives. And whenever it shall please thee to call us, or any of our connections, into that invisible state towards which we are continually hastening; teach those that remain, not to sorrow as they which have no hope; but be thou their Guide and Guardian, and make them to see and be assured, that death itself, when sent by thee, is the most welcome of all messengers. For in truth, O God, we ought to know, and be assured, that it is a matter of indifference whether we live or die, provided we be thine; and that the dark valley of the shadow of death has nothing terrible in it, to those who are conducted by thee. Preserve in us therefore a perpetual sense of this important truth, that so we may learn both to fit and prepare ourselves for our great change, and also cheerfully to resign up our souls to thee, as to a faithful Creator. To thee, therefore, do I now resign up all our concerns, temporal and eternal, in the name of Jesus Christ our only Mediator, our Lord, and our Judge.

1736. *Ætat.* 31.

For Earnestness in Doing Good, and in Self-Discipline.

ALMIGHTY Parent and Governor of the world! Thou hast placed me in the various relations of this life, that I, as a part, may, in my proper station, contribute to the beauty, order, and good of the

whole. Let me ever pursue this great end with unfeigned and unwearied zeal, courage, and constancy; let me earnestly seek all occasions of promoting the welfare of others, and avoid all of causing misery. Grant me unlimited charity; the strictest regard to truth, justice, and integrity; unaffected humility; an invincible meekness in every apprehension of insult or injury; perfect chastity in thought, word, and deed; and a temperance not to be overcome by appetite, or surprised through folly or negligence. Make my heart right before thee; and grant me prudence so to conduct my actions, that they may best answer the purposes of true wisdom. In the pursuit of my own happiness here, let thy spirit direct and govern me, that the appearance of good may not impose upon me, nor my own foolish passions transport me beyond due bounds.

O most wonderful and incomprehensible Being, who art the hope, end, centre, and happiness of all things! let me desire nothing in comparison of thee. Let me consider this world as the school of discipline for my affections, and the joys and sorrows of it as intended to prepare and qualify me for the enjoyment of thee. Oh teach me to love, reverence, and fear thee above all things; to put my whole trust in thee; to resign myself implicitly to thee; to make it my chief delight to look up to thee with all the devotion in my power; and whatever I do, to do it as unto thee. Let the consciousness, the experience of my blindness, and the deceitfulness of my heart, arm me against them, and since I cannot confide in myself, be thou ever with me.—*Ætat.* 28.

As it has not been found practicable to complete this portion, consisting of Collects and Occasional Prayers, sufficiently early for the present delivery of Books, it has been deemed best to send what has been printed. The remainder will be sent when finished, as opportunity offers.

April 1828.

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